

Local

Nine people awarded homestead lots

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Nine people were awarded Thursday homestead lots located in Kagman.

According to Ray Salas, the acting director for the homestead program, the Department of Public Lands issued last Thursday morning 19 letters to homestead applicants. Of the 19, only 12

responded to the letter. On the day of the awarding, only nine were present.

The nine people were part of the 1991 batch of applicants. According to Salas, there are 275 remaining applicants for 1991 and there are 387 remaining applicants for 1992.

Salas said that once the lots in Kagman are awarded to homestead applicants, the

next area that DPL is eyeing is in As Gonno.

"We are anticipating this As Gonno subdivision, so [there is a possibility] that we would accommodate the [1992 applicants] over there," he said, adding that there are over 350 lots in the area.

Though not yet finalized, DPL has just received the bidding package for the lots in As Gonno.

"...We are going to review it," said Salas referring to the As Gonno bidding package and reiterating that accommodating the 387 applicants of 1992 in the As Gonno subdivision is just a possibility.

DPL requested for a request for proposal on the As Gonno area lot assignments through the Department of Public Works.

Salas hopes that by the

end of the year, the 1992 batch could start receiving their lots.

With no specific date mentioned, Salas said the next drawing is tentatively scheduled for the third week of August 2017.

During a recent budget hearing with the House Ways and Means Committee, DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo told the committee that

an engineer was essential for the homestead program to go forward.

According to Teregeyo, DPL has been relying on the engineers of DPW but they also have DPW's needs to address and therefore could not prioritize DPL's requests. Teregeyo told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier interview that the engineers have been entertaining DPL's requests during their own free time, further delaying the homestead program's movement.

Mauta Riders Group mixes riding and helping

BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

As has become the tradition for several years now, the Mauta Riders Motorcycle Club opened the 2017 Liberation Day parade last July 4 with the thunderous roar of their motorcycles along Beach Road in Garapan.

The burst of energy from the powerful machines in turn incite more energy and excitement among parade spectators and the same held true during the parade on July 4.

"This year, we opened the parade by making so much noise and synchronized choreography. We wanted the opening of the Liberation Day parade to be special," said Mauta Riders vice president Ed Flores.

The Mauta Riders was formed in 2011 by the late Ed Camacho; it has been opening the Liberation Day parade since 2012.

"Opening the Liberation Day parade is always meaningful for the group because most of our members are retired military and police. For us, it is our way of giving honor to the soldiers and policemen and women who went before us," Flores said. "It is our tribute of appreciation to those men and women in the military and police. ...This life that we have now

is a privilege given by them. We acknowledge that, especially on Liberation Day," he added.

The group started with 20 members and has grown to 50. Majority of the members own a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Flores says the group is open to anyone who has the passion to ride and willing to be of service to the community.

"If one wants to be a member, please know that we do not only accept riders with Harley motorcycles. Any motorcycle owner can join the Mauta Riders group as long as your bike can run 45 miles an hour. We are open to all who wants to ride and help the community."

"We do our rides twice a month. Every government payday, we meet in Chalan Kiya at 1pm and by 2pm, we roll out from south to north on island. This way, we keep our motorcycles in good condition and the ride around the island gives us ideas of what we can do for the community," Flores said.

In September, the group is scheduled to do a cleanup ride along the whole stretch of Beach Road. Every Christmas they visit the sick at the Commonwealth Health Center and give out fruit baskets. They also donate \$500 to the *man'amko*



The Mauta Riders Group pose for the *Saipan Tribune* during the Liberation Day parade. "Mauta is a Chamorro word that means high clan and, yes, we are like one big family, having the same direction and that is to enjoy, ride, and help the community in whatever way we can," said Ed Flores, vice president of the Mauta Riders Group.

BEA CABRERA

and give the islands' elders a joy ride around the island.

"Our group is very much focused on doing good service for the com-

munity. As retired military and police, that is part of our system, which one cannot take away. We ride as hobby and we do service as a pas-

sion," Flores said.

The group takes its name from the Chamorro term *mauta*, which means high clan.

7th Annual Cliff Fishing Derby

July 28-30, 2017

Rota

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) is pleased to be a sponsor of this year's 7th Annual Cliff Fishing Derby on July 28-30, 2017, in Rota. The event is organized by the Rota Mayor's Office in collaboration with other departments and will be held at As Matmos, Pona Point, and Mt. Taipingo. The derby will kick off with orientation at Guata Beach at 5 p.m. on July 28 and will run until 10 a.m. on July 30. Entry is \$25 and applications are available from the Rota Mayor's Office.

An awards banquet will be held at 12 p.m. on June 30, with cash awards for the top 3 winners each for Biggest Fish and Total Weight. In-kind prizes will also be awarded for Most Variety. In support of the derby, which has the potential to attract fishermen to the Friendly Island, the MVA is providing cash prizes for the Biggest Fish Category and contributing to the banquet celebration.

The event is also supported by Rota Municipal Council, Ambros Inc., Dept. of Lands & Natural Resources, Dept. of Public Safety, and Dept. of Fire & Emergency Services. For more information or to register, contact Aubry Hocog, Rota Mayor's Office Special Asst. for Programs & Grants, at 671.777.5570 or aubryhocog@gmail.com



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Saipan In'tl Fishing Tournament on July 15-16

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 33rd Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament this weekend of July 15-16.

Last year, more than 60 boats and 200 fishermen and

crew competed in the two-day fishing derby. Barring inclement weather, this year's organizers are anticipating a similar turnout.

Game fish categories are: Bill Fish (1st-3rd), Yellow

Fin (1st-3rd), Wahoo (1st-3rd), Mahi Mahi (1st-3rd), and Skipjack (1st-3rd). Prizes will also be awarded for total weight and grand prize, while the Saipan Fishermen's Association will

award a special \$10,000 prize to the first participant to land a marlin weighing over the record 942 lbs.

The tournament registration cost is \$150 per boat, inclusive of a captain and one crew member. Each additional angler is \$25.

Pre-registration will be held at Smiling Cove Marina on July 14 from 5pm to 6:30pm, where the Saipan Fishermen's Association will provide a tournament briefing.

The tournament will begin at 6am and end at 6pm each day.

The Department of Public

Safety's Boating Safety Unit will conduct courtesy boat safety inspections. Participants should contact the Boating Safety office at 664-9123 to make an appointment.

The awards ceremony will be held on July 18 at 6pm at The Magellan's, Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Non-tournament participants will be charged \$30/adult and \$15/ages 4-11. The SFA will produce a souvenir tournament program booklet, to be provided

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BankPacific sues SBA over Rota land

BankPacific Ltd. is suing the Small Business Administration in federal court over a disputed mortgaged land in Sinapalo, Rota.

BankPacific, through lawyer Michael A. White, wants the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that the SBA has no right to the lot.

According to the complaint, couple Matthew A. and Rita M. Ooka executed a mortgage on Oct. 3, 1995, in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

White said the Ooka couple mortgaged the property in Sinapalo II, Rota.

On Oct. 27, 1997, NMHC assigned the mortgage to BankPacific.

On May 1, 2003, the Ookas executed a second mortgage of the same lot in favor of SBA.

White said the May 1, 2003, mortgage to SBA was recorded approximately seven and a half years after the Oct. 3, 1995, mortgage in favor of NMHC that was later assigned to BankPacific.

Accordingly, the lawyer said, the mortgage to SBA is subordinate to the mortgage held by BankPacific.

In December 2003, BankPacific filed a lawsuit against the Ookas to foreclose on the property.

In July 2014, the Superior Court entered a judgment, foreclosing upon the lot and ordering that it be sold.

White said that pursuant to the CNMI Real Estate Mortgage Law, the lot was sold, and the sale was approved by the Superior Court.

A quitclaim deed was is-

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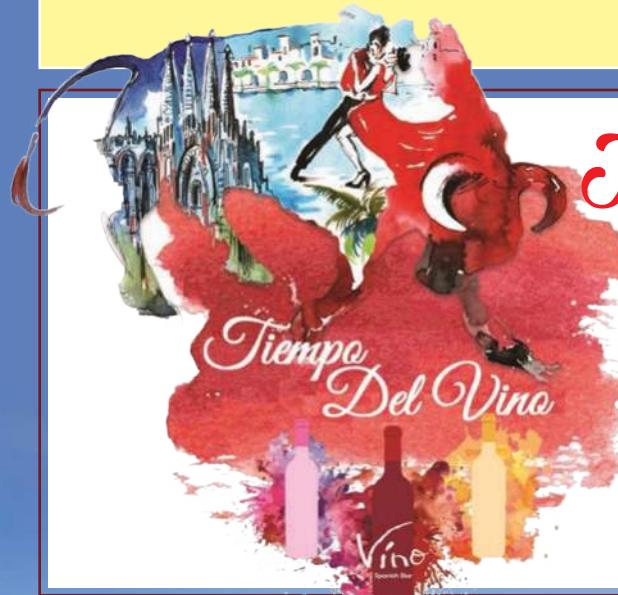
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 **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**
CCA support meeting this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, July 13, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency

Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamaranas@gmail.com or cca@ccamaranas.org. (PR)

VA social worker to visit Saipan

Tiare Peterkin, a licensed clinical social worker and suicide prevention coordinator with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Islands Health Care Systems, will be visiting Saipan for the first time on July 11-12 to conduct outreach among

veterans here and train providers on the VA's services and resources for veterans in crisis. (PR)

NBG to test Giant Voice System today

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will

conduct routine testing of the vital communication and advance warning system, "Giant Voice" today, July 10, starting at 3pm. Residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers

should only hear short verbal tests of the system, including warning tones. This is a monthly test that typically falls on the first Monday of each month. (PR)

CHAMBER

From Page 1

Commonwealth-only workers, or CW-1 workers, to be registered with the CNMI Department of Labor and for all employers to get identification cards that cost \$50 each for their foreign workers. The bill passed during a House hearing held last Thursday.

The bill, authored by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) notes, "This system will help the CNMI get a hold of the numbers of the CW-1 issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration System. The bill sets a procedure that when a CW-1 is issued by USCIS, all non-immigrant workers must then register in the CNMI Department of Labor."

"The Department of Labor will then record and maintain the files and documentation of all non-immigrant workers and issue a non-immigrant worker's identification card."

Attao believes that the bill is ripe for passage. "Our situation is getting worse. A lot of the problems that we face now

in terms of manpower is that we don't even know where the CW-1 numbers are going and the federal government is not passing that information down to us. If we had access, we wouldn't have the problem happening in the hospital right now where we are losing healthcare workers like our nurses."

"The bill will allow us to have access to the statistical data and we would actually know the exact numbers of how many people are being approved and for what positions," Attao added.

The Chamber does not agree because it said this repeats a process that is already established and followed by business owners in terms of employee documentation and the identification card is costly especially for businesses that have several CW-1 hires.

"We document our own employees. We go through and follow the rules of the CNMI Department of Labor and USCIS. We are hiring documented and approved workers. If the government wants the information, why are they imposing on the business sec-

tor to do the work for the government? We are diligent in managing our employees with proper documentation. We are already in a bad place to find enough workers and to follow all the rules that exists. It is very difficult," Palacios said.

"The CNMI Labor Department should be the one to keep the statistics because they require businesses to advertise on their website about job openings. They keep asking for this data and we keep providing them. We are not remiss in our responsibilities.

...This bill is redundant and costly for the business community," Palacios added.

Attao also hopes that the bill will encourage business owners to hire more local workers. "We have a growing population of nurses from [the Northern Marianas College], workers with skills and training from [the Northern Marianas Trades Institute]. We can now slowly decrease the dependency on CW workers and I think people should also see this is where legislation is coming from."

Palacios was quick to say that the business community

has been doing that and is aware of the importance of hiring U.S. citizens first.

"We are going through this process because, again, the perception is we haven't been hiring U.S. citizens but we have. Businesses continue to do whatever it takes to locally hire. We have partnerships with NMTI, Latte Training [Academy], and conduct internal trainings. We hire foreign workers for jobs that require not only skills but years of experience in that field," she added.

A provision in the bill states that registration in the CNMI Department of Labor and acquisition of a non-immigrant worker's identification card is subject to the approval of the Department of Homeland Security-USCIS.

As per procedure, the bill's next stop is at the Senate. The Senate hearing on the bill is yet to be scheduled.

"We are not saying it shouldn't be done. We are just saying it should not be the business community's burden to pay more than it should," said Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski.

The additional \$50 would be going into what is called the non-immigrant worker identification fund. The bill stated that 70 percent of the fees generated would go to the CNMI Department of Labor for the enforcement of laws pertaining to non-immigrant workers and the maintenance of records and files of all non-immigrant workers, while the remaining 30 percent would go to the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division.

HB 20-68 HD1 now heads to the Senate for action.

DPS

From Page 1

San Antonio on Friday before noon.

DFEMS Search and Rescue Unit and the Hazmat Unit in protective gear pulled out the three bodies from the sewer pump well and brought them to the Commonwealth Health Center, where a doctor pronounced them dead Friday at 1:32pm. Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong identified the physician as Dr. Marty Rohringer.

Tarkong said the preliminary findings show that the three workers were exposed to high levels of hydrogen sulfide gas inside the well.

Tarkong said other factors include wastewater presence that was about 6 to 7 inches deep, which may have possibly caused the victims to drown.

"This case is still under investigation. Exact cause of death cannot be determined unless an autopsy is conducted," Tarkong said.

He said preliminary investigation indicates the possibility of accidental death.

DPS 911 received a call on Friday at 11:11am from a CUC employee who requested emergency assistance about a worker who had fallen unconscious inside a sewer pump well at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio.

Gersonde said after receiving the call from DPS 911 dispatch, firefighters/medics from Susupe, Garapan, Koblerville, and Kagman fire stations along with Search and Rescue Unit and Hazmat Unit immediately responded to the scene.

Tarkong said the first victim had descended into the tank to unclog a rubber seal and open a drainage.

On the way back up to ground level, the first victim lost consciousness and fell back into the tank.

The two other co-workers went down into the tank to help the first victim. The two workers, however, also lost consciousness inside the tank.

While DFEMS were conducting the rescue operation and police and CUC were conducting investigations, police officers and cadets blocked the southbound vehicles along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan Road near the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio and the northbound vehicles near the Mobil gas station at the corner of Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road in Koblerville.

Traffic flow went back to normal along Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan Road after police removed the blockage at 1:30pm.

After CUC staff and police officers completed the at-the-scene investigation Friday afternoon, passersby could still smell a strong odor coming out of the well.

In a statement, USA Fanter Corp. president Steve Qian said the company will work wholeheartedly with authorities who are or will be investigating "this very unfortunate and regrettable tragedy."

"Now is not the time for statements to the press. Now is the time for prayers and to console the families of our co-workers we lost," said Qian in the statement.

He said the company "reserves any comments at this time and defer to the authorities to comment publicly" on this accident.

Qian said the company's concern is to pay respects to their co-workers and ensure that their remains are properly and promptly repatriated to their homes and to their respective families.

ATTAO

From Page 1

of Representatives last Thursday, now heads to the Senate.

HB 20-68 HD1 seeks to require employers to obtain CNMI Department of Labor-issued identification cards for each of their nonresident workers at a cost of \$50 each.

Attao explained that even if the bill is passed by the CNMI government, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security must first "give the Commonwealth government the green

light" prior to implementation. This means that even if the bill becomes law, it cannot be implemented without the approval of DHS.

Attao said the main purpose of the bill was to allow for a type of prioritization when it comes to the issuing of CW slots for nonresidents.

Citing the cases of Commonwealth Health Center nurses who are about to leave temporarily due to CW-1 complications, Attao wishes to set aside a number of slots for the more important jobs, such as nurses.

"We are fighting [for] CWs against every other entity here," said Attao. "If we knew where these [CW slots] were actually going to, we could protect our healthcare. Right now, we are at zero knowledge of everything. We are compromising our healthcare."

Attao added that with the ID, the CNMI government could possibly save money for the prioritization of healthcare professionals.

"If we had the statistics we could actually [coordinate] with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services," he said.

The additional \$50 would be going into what is called the non-immigrant worker identification fund. The bill stated that 70 percent of the fees generated would go to the CNMI Department of Labor for the enforcement of laws pertaining to non-immigrant workers and the maintenance of records and files of all non-immigrant workers, while the remaining 30 percent would go to the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division.

HB 20-68 HD1 now heads to the Senate for action.

Pacific, and how she turned back but ran out of fuel and ended up in the Marshalls instead.

After that, the theory goes, the two aviators were taken by their Japanese captors to a prison camp where they were executed as suspected spies. The team retrieves testimony from a witness who claims to have seen a white man and a white woman after they landed on or near Saipan in Japanese custody.

The team also offers a plausible hypothesis of how Earhart might have gotten lost and veered off course while heading to Howland Island in the South

What's less understandable is why the U.S. government and military, would conceal it — especially after Pearl Harbor and all that followed.

"This could be the biggest government cover-up of all time," Henry declares with the bombast that characterizes the special. What he doesn't explain is why.

For all those who treasure the memory of Earhart and her courage, maybe it's more comforting to believe she died a heroic death in the blue Pacific — and not an agonizing one at the hands of cruel captors.

TV

From Page 1

what happened back in 1937, the age of aviation antiquity, when Earhart set off with navigator Fred Noonan to circumnavigate the globe in a Lockheed Electra and vanished somewhere in the South Pacific.

Did they get lost, run out of fuel and crash into the ocean, as the U.S. Navy concluded after what was then the largest naval search? Did they crash-land on some obscure island

and die as castaways? And was Earhart really a U.S. spy sent to report on Japanese activity ahead of World War II?

This two-hour special is a good yarn told with graphics and portentous music. But don't expect the mystery to be solved beyond a reasonable doubt, despite the special's claims. Other Earhart experts are already throwing shade on the speculation, floated since the 1960s, about the fate of America's most famous missing person.

This new theory rests on an ambiguous photograph, said to have been taken in 1937,

that might show Earhart and Noonan alive on a dock in the Marshall Islands, then controlled by Japan. Unearthed recently in a long-lost file in the National Archives, the photo dominated headlines this week.

But is that really them? Isn't her hair too long and too dark? Why are there no Japanese guards visible? Is that really her airplane being towed by a Japanese ship? Wasn't this picture included in a batch of photos in the Archives taken after 1940?

Shawn Henry, a former FBI

official, hosts the special, leading a team that uses the latest recognition analysis technology. They examine plane parts found on Mili Atoll, an uninhabited island in the Marshalls where they believe Earhart crash-landed. They interview eyewitnesses (or their descendants) who claim to have seen a white man and a white woman after they landed on or near Saipan in Japanese custody.

The team also offers a plausible hypothesis of how Earhart might have gotten lost and veered off course while heading to Howland Island in the South

Pacific, and how she turned back but ran out of fuel and ended up in the Marshalls instead. After that, the theory goes, the two aviators were taken by their Japanese captors to a prison camp where they were executed as suspected spies. The team retrieves testimony from a witness who claims to have seen the duo buried by the Japanese, and from two Marines who say they were ordered to dig up their bodies. What happened to the alleged remains? The team has no answers.

Japan has denied this account, back then and now.

Bill taxing betel nut awaits Senate action

A bill that would tax importing betel nut passed the House of Representatives last Thursday and is now awaiting Senate action.

House Bill 20-02 HD1, authored by Rep. Blas Jona- than "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan),

seeks to increase the amount of tax imposed on the importation of areca nut, also known as betel nut.

Under the proposal, what was previously a 1 percent excise tax imposed per betel nut transaction is changed to \$3

per lb of betel nut.

The money would be pooled in an areca nut (betel nut) account handled by the Department of Finance. Annually, 30 percent of the fund would be used to fund oral cancer screenings and education, 45 percent would go to oral cancer treatment, 7.5 per-

cent would go to customs operations, and the remaining 7.5 percent would go to Finance's Division of Quarantine.

"[It's] nothing against [the] exporting countries, but what we've got to understand from the CNMI standpoint is that we continue to import [betel nut] to the CNMI and

yet we can't export to these island nations," said Attao, adding that the CNMI is losing out on a lot with the current taxing process.

Long-term, the main purpose of the bill is to "deter the consumption of betel nut," Attao said, since betel nut consumption is directly

linked to oral cancer.

"I know a lot of people are saying that [betel nut consumption] is part of our culture [but] whose culture are we promoting?" asked Attao. "If we're promoting culture it should be from our soil, our tree."

HB 20-02 HD1 now heads to the Senate. (Erwin Encinare)

MLSG joins global legal referral network

Marianas Legal Strategy Group, LLC (MLSG) has joined the Nextlaw Global Referral Network, enabling it to connect its clients to high quality lawyers around the world.

Nextlaw Global Referral Network is the largest legal

referral network in the world, with more than 300 member firms and 18,600 lawyers covering 160 countries.

"By joining Nextlaw Global Referral Network, we can now provide our clients with the best of all worlds by continuing to serve them

here in the Marianas while also being able to direct them to top tier lawyers in other jurisdictions where they need legal counsel and business advice," said MLSG partner Sean E. Frink.

"We can build on our trusted relationships with our clients by putting the full resources of the global, legal powerhouse

at their disposal," he added.

Jeff Modisett, Nextlaw Global Referral Network CEO, said, "We're proud to have Marianas Legal Strategy Group as part of our network. We're only as good as the quality of our member firms and MLSG makes us stronger and better able to meet the needs of our other

members' clients, particularly in real estate development and acquisition, litigation, finance, gaming, and government relations."

Nextlaw Global Referral Network was created by Dentons, the largest law firm in the world. The network, which is free to join, employs a detailed screening system

to guarantee the quality of its member firms and has developed proprietary technology to allow members to identify lawyers at other member firms with the appropriate experience where clients need legal counsel.

For more information on MLSG go to www.mlsg.law. (PR)



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UOG looking for wild bee colonies



OLYMPIA TERRAL
Bees and honey from a healthy hive in Santa Rita, Guam.

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences at the University of Guam needs the public's help in locating wild bee colonies.

Chris Rosario, a research associate with the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center at CNAS, has been surveying bees in Guam and in the region.

Funded by USDA-APHIS, the Honeybee National Survey has been extended for another year.

Rosario's research will help Guam in its efforts to have Guam declared varroa-free in the future.

Rosario would like assistance from the public in locat-

ing wild (feral) bee colonies in Guam, especially if they are causing a problem for neighborhoods or homeowners. He would like to remove the problem bees and give them a new home in a hive. When removed from the site they will be placed at UOG experiment stations and will support ongoing research.

"The more we are able to relocate feral hives and place them at farms and research stations around the island, the more we will be able to promote Guam's fledgling bee keeping industry," said Rosario.

At this time, Guam bees are still testing negative for the

varroa mite. With continued sampling of Guam bees and if bees continuously test negative for the mite, Guam may qualify for varroa-free status, opening the door to the possibility of Guam beekeepers providing queen bees, certified to be free of the damaging mite, to stateside beekeepers.

Individuals, government entities, and private businesses are welcome to contact Rosario regarding domestic or feral bees at 487-1640, 735-2068 or via email at crosario@triton.uog.edu.

For more information about bees, visit cnas-re.uog.edu/bees. (UOG)



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2 more NMC nursing grads pass the NCLEX in their first attempt

Two more Northern Marianas College graduates from the Class of 2017 just passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses in their first attempt.

YuGeun Oh and Gemmilie Eugenio have passed the NCLEX-RN, joining the ranks of other NMC graduates who passed the difficult exam before them, including Mika Sablan and Lovely Lopez, whose achievement in passing the NCLEX was announced last week.

The NCLEX-RN is the exam nursing graduates in the CNMI have to pass in order to be able to practice nursing. The exam tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities of nursing graduates in order to certify that they are equipped with the capability to apply entry level nursing practices correctly.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said, "The list of NMC nursing graduates who are passing the NCLEX exam continues to grow! We want to congratulate YuGeun and Gem-

milie on becoming the latest graduates to pass this difficult exam and look forward to hearing more about their success as medical professionals."

Rosa Tudela, chairperson of NMC's Nursing Department, said, "On behalf of our nursing faculty—Mr. Aldan, Mrs. Oneto and myself—I want to offer our sincere congratulations to YuGeun and Gemmilie for passing the NCLEX-RN exam on their first try! We

are so proud of your recent accomplishments and wish you all the best in the many opportunities open to you in your nursing career. It is our hope that you go on to advance your nursing education and give back to our community your selfless service of care and devotion. We are confident that you are ready to meet any challenges before you and do



Oh



Eugenio

your very best."

YuGeun Oh said he never thought he would pursue nursing as an ultimate career in his life. But, he said, he saw nurses working so hard to save people's lives and that fascinated him. From that moment on, he decided to become a nurse and be a part of the healthcare system.

"The NMC Nursing Program has helped me to fulfill my goal of becoming a nurse and helping people," Oh said.

Eugenio said the support from her parents and friends helped her focus.

"I chose to pursue the nursing degree because it's something that is stable. It will also provide me with skills and knowledge I can use to take care of my parents, and others who may need help and care," Eugenio said. (NMC)

OAG: Camacho didn't incur damage because of his promotion, salary hike

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawrence M. Camacho did not incur any damage since he was promoted to a police major shortly after the Department of Public Safety denied him the director of police position, according to DPS.

In DPS' response to Camacho's lawsuit, DPS, though assistant attorney general Tom Schweiger, said that Camacho

Sofina Q. Tomokane
PO. Box 10003, PMB 672
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 323-5194 / 287-0997

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF) FCD GU
Florenzo I. Norita) CIVIL ACTION
An Incompetent) NO. 17-0287
By)
Sofina Q. Tomokane) NOTICE OF
Petitioner) HEARING
Sofina Q. Tomokane)
Petitioner)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition for Appointment of Guardianship for the above-named by Sofina Q. Tomokane, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Kenneth L. Govendo on the 17th day of August, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

failed to allege any damage caused by DPS' actions.

Schweiger pointed out that Camacho, shortly after being denied the director's position, was promoted to the next highest position (major) at DPS, with the same salary increase he would have gotten had he become the police director.

In July 2015, then-DPS commissioner James Deleon Guerrero informed Camacho that Pete Leon Guerrero was selected police director. Leon Guerrero also currently serves as acting special assistant for the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Schweiger said that even if the announcement for the director's position was published thrice, this is allowed pursuant to the NMI Administrative Code.

In his lawsuit, Camacho, through Robert T. Torres, said he was the only one who applied for the position when the Civil Service Commission announced it open between Dec. 10 and 24, 2014.

Torres said the examination for the position was announced a second time and a third time by CSC after Camacho and no one else had applied during its first and second announcement.

Torres said one other applicant, Leon Guerrero, applied for the position during the third announcement for the post.

In Camacho's suit, Torres alleges that Camacho was interviewed for the position by a panel consisting of two non-DPS offi-

cers and the Customs director.

In Camacho's lawsuit, Torres alleges that a member of the interview panel assisted Leon Guerrero with his application for the position.

Schweiger said if one of the members of the interview panel assisted the other applicant, Leon Guerrero, it was done without DPS' knowledge and outside the scope of that employee's job.

"Thus, the individual would be personally liable for that act, not DPS," Schweiger said.

Schweiger also asserted that Camacho's grievance was not timely.

He said DPS was not the one that certified the applicants for the director position as eligible.

Schweiger said DPS followed all the rules and regulations of the CSC as their Office of Personnel Management directed them to.

DPS asked the Superior Court to deny Camacho's petition.

On Friday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set a status conference for July 18, 2017.

Last May, Judge Camacho denied DPS' motion to dismiss Major Camacho's discrimination lawsuit against DPS.

Major Camacho, a 25-year veteran of the CNMI's police force, filed a petition for judicial review of agency action and injunction against DPS and CSC for allegedly not selecting him to the position police despite being the only one qualified for the post.

DPS, through the Office of the Attorney General, moved to dismiss the lawsuit.

New Dela Cruz novel tells of the importance of the human mind

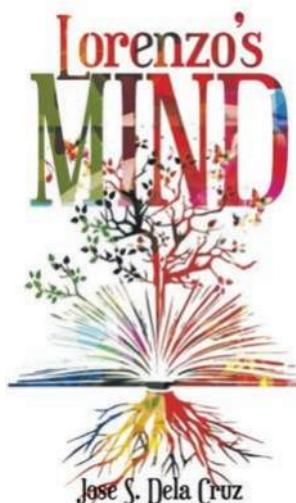
Retired CNMI chief justice Jose S. Dela Cruz's new novel *Lorenzo's Mind* has just been published by Archway Publishing and is now available at the publisher and at major bookstores such as Barnes & Noble and retail outlets such as Amazon.

The book addresses the themes of mental illness, depression, work burnout, and other psychological stresses that many of people suffer from.

Dela Cruz's book tells the story of a brilliant trial lawyer who, one day, feared that he was losing his mind, i.e. that he was having a mental breakdown or was suffering from some psychological disorder. He was afraid that, if his mind stops working, he would no longer be able to think and be conscious. If that happens, life would no longer have any meaning for him. He would be unable to recognize the people around him. And he would not be able to work and to enjoy life. In other words, he would be just like other living species that have no consciousness.

Dela Cruz wants his readers to take note of the critical importance of the mind to man. Many of us take our mind for granted. And about the only time we worry about our mind is when we experience something that adversely affects our brain. The fear that our mind might break down or cease to work is what usually jolts us. Only after we realize that our mind is not working properly do we become aware of the critical role it plays in our life.

The book is the story of Lorenzo, who thought he was experiencing a mental break-



down. He was afraid that he has some kind of mental problem and this terrified him. It also made him aware of another reality we take for granted: that human life on earth is very short. Soon after the scary nightmares he experienced over two weeks, he decided to change the way he lived. He realized that his life, up to that point, had revolved completely around his work, and his family and social obligations. He had never approached life as something to enjoy.

All his life, Lorenzo had focused mostly on his career and on acquiring material wealth. His approach to life had very little to do with being happy. His nightmare became his wake-up call. It made him realize that the true purpose of man on earth is to enjoy life and to be happy. It is our "state of mind," not how much material wealth we have, that makes us happy or sad.

The subject of mental health and depression has assumed a very significant importance over the past several decades.

This has been the case because of the dramatic increase in mental health problems and issues by a large segment of mankind. Our understanding and treatment of mental health issues and problems has assumed more and more importance as human knowledge and consciousness continue to expand. The demand on our ability to think has expanded by leaps and bounds as the call for more technological and technical discoveries, inventions and innovations increases. (PR)

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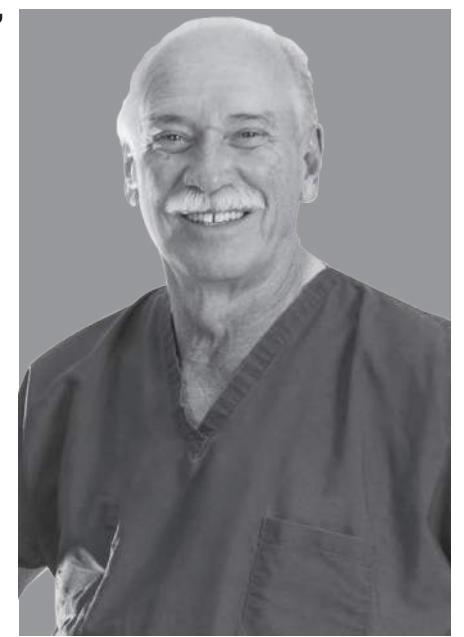
Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
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Interior provides nearly \$ 1M grant to CNMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Acting Interior assistant secretary Nikolao Pula made available last week \$994,711 to the CNMI to improve water distribution, waste management, and hospital billing services. One grant was provided for a joint government/non-profit partnership to improve efforts in addressing and prosecuting sexual violence cases.

"Requests submitted to the Office of Insular Affairs for grant assistance always outweigh the available resources," said Pula. "We are pleased that we can support some of the worthy projects prioritized by Gov. Ralph [DLG] Torres as they will have a direct impact toward improving lives for our fellow Americans living in the CNMI."

The projects approved for 2017 are as follow:

■ **Explore potential sources of fresh groundwater (\$300,000)** for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Division of Water to fund a study of potential sources of fresh water for the people of Saipan. CUC is collaborat-

ing with the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a two-year study to update the understanding of fresh groundwater availability and provide information on the sustainable management of the island's fragile groundwater resources. Saipan has a population of nearly 50,000 which is more than 85 percent of the territory's total population.

■ **Improve hospital billing services (\$250,000)** for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to improve the chargemaster/fee schedule and ensure all services within the hospital and clinics across the territory are captured at a reasonable and sustainable rate. Funds will include training for improved coding and billing for Medicare and Medicaid services. This project responds to CNMI Public Law 16-51, which mandates that health centers in the territory improve the fee capture rates for services and financial autonomy.

■ **Upgrade water distribution at the Kagman farm plots (\$92,606)** to the De-

partment of Lands and Natural Resources for procurement of water meters, pressure relief valves, water pumps, pressure regulators and other related equipment to increase water production, reduce waste, and provide reliable water distribution for local farmers and ranchers. The Kagman farm plots produce nearly 75 percent of all produce, meat and specialty crops for Saipan and lessen the need for imported foods. The CNMI Farmer's Market Association advocated for the necessity of this project, citing the advantages of providing fresh produce to the local populace and private businesses on the island. This is funded under the OIA Maintenance Assistance Program.

■ **Study waste disposal and recycling alternatives (\$193,620)** to the Department of Public Works to explore the possibilities of providing government-operated trash pickup and recycling services for Saipan with the goal of increasing recycling options for residents, cutting down on illegal trash burn-

ing, and eliminating related public health hazards. From 2013 to 2015, the CNMI experienced a 12-percent rise in monthly waste tonnage from an average of 100 to 112 tons per month at its Lower Base transfer station. The feasibility study will also provide critical information needed for managing the island's only landfill, the Marpi landfill, which is projected, by CNMI officials, to reach maximum capacity 15 years earlier than expected.

■ **Refurbish waste incinerator for ports (\$111,900)** to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to procure parts and equipment to refurbish the CNMI ports incinerator unit at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport and to fund a preventive maintenance program. The incinerator system was installed more than a decade ago and is the only available incinerator for disposing of waste from aircraft and sea-going vessels that make port on Saipan. The USDA mandates that waste not accumulate beyond three days and air and sea vessels

serving the island would be highly impacted if the incinerator were to experience down time exceeding that timeframe. Saipan currently services 13 direct flights from Guam, China, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong and anticipates three new airline routes to the island in the next year. This is funded under the OIA Maintenance Assistance Program.

■ **Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (\$46,585)**

to strengthen the CNMI's capacity to address sexual assault in a joint government/non-profit collaboration with the Commonwealth Health Center by creating a comprehensive medical response for all three islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This response, the Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners Program, will include recruitment, training, and retention of examiners and nurses to attend to the needs of victims of sexual assault, collect evidence that may be used in prosecution, and testify in court when necessary.

Maintenance Assistance Program grants through the Office of Insular Affairs are used to promote and develop institutions and capabilities that improve the operation and

maintenance of island infrastructure.

Technical Assistance Program grants are intended for short-term, non-capital projects and are not meant to supplant local funding of routine operating expenses of an island government. TAP priorities include projects that foster development of the insular areas in the following areas: accountability, financial management, economic development, education, energy, management control initiatives, disaster assistance, natural and cultural resources, capacity building, public safety/emergencies, health, and invasive species management.

All funding for 2017 for the CNMI was provided through the TAP program except for two, which were funded under MAP.

Funding for the MAP and TAP programs under CFDA# 15.875 at <https://www.grants.gov/> is available to any of the four U.S. territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI, as well as to the three freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau. Funding under both programs is appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress. (DOI)

Kuentai honors WWII fallen in ARC ceremony



Participants of the Kuentai joint memorial ceremony pose with Japanese Consul Kinji Shinoda, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and other officials for a picture last Friday at the Aqua Resort Club parking area.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japanese organization Kuentai, which seeks to gather the remains of Japanese soldiers who fell in World War II, bring them home to their families, and lay them to rest, held a second memorial service last Friday at the Aqua Resort Club parking area, which has been found to be a final resting place for many Japanese soldiers.

Friday sought to honor the thousands of American and Japanese soldiers who lost their lives on Saipan during World War II.

According to Kuentai secretary general Usan Kurata, the entire island of Saipan is a mass burial site and harbors the remains of many American and Japanese soldiers.

Thus, Friday's ceremony was intended not only to remember the fallen but also to purify the area.

The memorial service last

one of the biggest mass burial sites on Saipan. Based on its research, the Kuentai organization discovered that after the Banzai attack of 1942, thousands of fallen soldiers were bulldozed into man-made trenches in the area. The ARC parking area was one of the biggest trenches that were uncovered.

Last Friday's ceremony was joined by not only the members of the Kuentai group but also by war veterans and government officials

like Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Japanese Consul Kinji Shinoda.

Kurata, who is also a Shinto priest, started the ceremony with a Shinto purification ceremony for the entire area and for those who attended the ceremony.

After the purification ritual, Buddhist priests Hakuga Murayama and Kouya Matsuoka gave a prayer for the deceased and offered incense. The entire audience also offered incense during the ceremony.

Supervisory leadership seminars

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, in coordination with Island Training Solutions, will be conducting a two-part training seminar on supervisory leadership in August and September.

The seminar teaches supervisors and team leaders the skills to lead others in the workplace. With the recent and sudden changes in the community and the increase of business development on the island, there is increased competition to find enough workers. Business owners are left short-handed, understaffed, and panicked with the lack of manpower. With this change, employees are left to juggle or take on new responsibilities. Businesses are in need of strong and motivated individuals. With the proper skills and training, you can groom every employee into successful leaders.

Effective supervisors can make the difference between the success or failure of a company. Training supervisors allows you to instill your company mission and values in your leaders, who pass them on to the frontline workers. Take advantage of this opportunity to train your new supervisors and sharpen

the skills of your experienced ones.

In Part 1 of this course, participants will learn how to communicate effectively, embrace their new role and assert leadership, and identify and manage problems using a step-by-step process. In Part 2, participants will learn how to amplify strengths in each team member to maximize productivity and success, how to empower and motivate others, and how to manage diversity in the workplace.

The seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on the third floor of Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315. Part 1 is on Aug. 17, 2017. Part 2 is on Sept. 21, 2017. Registration fee for each course is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Prepay for both courses and receive a \$10 discount, \$90 (member fee) or \$100 (non-member fee).

Sign up for both courses. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)

Ongoing gambling survey collates baseline data

As a collaborative effort between the Commonwealth Casino Commission and Imperial Pacific International Ltd., the Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program under the Office of the Governor has been conducting a "Gambling Survey" to gather baseline data in order to help determine if a further comprehensive screening tool or assessment is needed in regards to gambling in the CNMI.

The need for policy development and problem gambling service development will also be better understood

from such survey.

The surveys have been conducted at Booth 1 of the CNMI Liberation Grounds at the Garapan Fishing Base.

An online version of the survey can be taken at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FDKXYNH>.

The last day to complete the online survey is this Saturday, July 15, 2017.

The community is highly encouraged to take the survey.

As a client-centered rehabilitation program, the mission of the SAR Program is to provide

culturally appropriate wellness and recovery programs aimed at improving the overall quality of life for individuals struggling from substance abuse addiction.

For more information, contact Shawnalei Ogomoro of the SAR Program at (670) 323-7277 or email at shawnalei.ogumoro@gov.mp. (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff of the Substance Abuse & Rehabilitation Program under the Office of the Governor have their picture taken.



SAR personnel complete training at Guam Lighthouse Recovery Center

Ten members of the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program under the Office of the Governor completed a three-day training exercise in one of Guam's inpatient/residential facility for men, the Lighthouse Recovery Center.

The LRC is a residential facility that helps homeless, at-risk of homelessness, and low/moderate income men transition from chemical abuse and dependence back to an independent, drug-free life through a structured program.

SAR staff were educated in substance use disorders and the neurobiology of addiction, the Core Treatment and Treatment Levels of Care of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, treatment planning, and stages of recovery. The

training was conducted by the facility director Valeria Reyes and clinical supervisor Leinani Naholowa.

Charlotte Flores, one of SAR's behavioral health technicians, believed the training was very informative and concise.

"Our team really enjoyed the training. The instructors kept us engaged from the beginning to the end. We now have a firm understanding about what we can do here at home in the CNMI," Flores said.

Two of SAR's associate alcohol and drug counselors—Taylor Ada and Becky Dania Mettao—noted the benefits of learning the operation(s) of the Guam inpatient/residential facility and how it applies to the goals of the SAR program.

"A handful of the things we

have gained from this training are tremendously helpful for me as a counselor and our program overall," Ada said.

"The rise of this epidemic in our area is affecting our people, our community and our islands as a whole. The fight to decrease the use of this substance is not going to be easy, but it is possible. I firmly believe that as long as we work together as one CNMI, change is possible," Mettao added.

Special assistant for Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Yvette R. Sablan expressed her utmost appreciation to LRC for their swift response and genuine eagerness to assist the SAR program progress in their endeavor to provide professional training for the staff and on the services on substance abuse. (PR)

MLSC accepting donations for Back to School! project

The public is being invited to join Micronesian Legal Services Corp.'s annual project to help provide school supplies to needy children in the CNMI, called "Back to School!"

MLCS accepts donations! New school supplies or cash donations may be dropped off at its Marianas office at the V

Sablan building in Chalan Piao (same building as the Subway sandwich shop and Karidat). Checks may be dropped off or mailed to MLSC at P.O. Box 500826, Saipan, MP 96950. Or call MLSC at 234-7729 and we will pick up donations.

The group hopes to deliver at least 100 new backpacks

with supplies to children in low-income households. It identifies children from its work and from referrals made by Karidat and others.

"We are a 501(c)(3) organization, so your generous donations are tax-deductible," the group said in a statement. (PR)

Teacher gets prison for 'ice' sale, pot

Vincent John Quitugua, 47, from Piti, Guam, was sentenced on July 6, 2017, in the district court to 57 months in prison for possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) with intent to distribute, and doing so near a school.

The court also ordered Quitugua to pay a mandatory \$200 assessment fee. In addition, he may no longer qualify for federal benefits.

Quitugua pleaded guilty to both crimes on July 6, 2016. The investigation revealed that Quitugua, a public school

teacher, was selling methamphetamine and growing marijuana from his home. Quitugua was discovered with over 10 grams of methamphetamine, with a purity level of 99 percent, approximately 121 living marijuana plants, 429 grams of processed marijuana, four firearms, \$72,922.50 in U.S. currency as well as four scales, glass pipes and paraphernalia.

The district court noted that Quitugua is a public school teacher with over 20 years of experience in Guam's middle school.

The court expressed concern that Quitugua had four firearms in close proximity to the drugs, and noted that the sales of methamphetamine and the marijuana growth occurred in close proximity to a school. The court ordered that the currency, firearms, and ammunition be forfeited to the U.S. government.

The Drug Enforcement Administration and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Rosetta San Nicolas, an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Guam. (USAO)

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

North Korea missile crisis: US can't go it alone

Barack Obama drew criticism for the perception that while he was president, the United States in some ways abandoned its traditional role of global leadership in favor of an approach that an Obama aide memorably described as "leading from behind." But even as the U.S. stayed mostly away from the fray as the Syrian civil war turned into a massive humanitarian crisis, America maintained its leading position by pushing for a global response to climate change, supporting longstanding mutual defense pacts and championing free-trade deals.

As a presidential candidate, Donald Trump was all over the place on foreign policy, alternately sounding hawkish and isolationist. But he also said the U.S. should stop being the world's patsy—both in offering costly military protection to nations that didn't do enough to strengthen their own armed forces and in accepting trade agreements that in his view harmed U.S. workers and the U.S. economy.

There are elements of truth in his critique. But then and now, Trump has never appreciated that having strong bilateral relations with many nations is a two-way street, benefiting American interests by promoting stability and cooperation. He has never grasped that all global issues are interrelated—that the world's richest and most powerful nation can't be alternately hostile and friendly to other nations on an a la carte basis and expect a warm response to new U.S. overtures.

This point could be made crystal-clear at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany. After abandoning the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal and pulling the U.S. out of the Paris climate accord, Trump may well get a stony reception to his call for a concerted global response to North Korea's latest successful missile launch. Fear of such an unstable dictatorship—especially if unpredictable young leader Kim Jong Un is a year or two from having nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of striking anywhere within 1,500 miles—would seem like a cause the world could rally around. But with the exception of South Korea and Japan—which have the most at stake—Trump's call to action has so far won only muted or pro forma responses. Meanwhile, Russia and China, the nation with the most ability to influence North Korea because of its financial ties, are refusing to increase pressure on Pyongyang to stop its saber-rattling, and Beijing is actively upset with the U.S. over what it sees as heavy-handed tactics—leading to a Trump vow to take on North Korea on his own if necessary.

For the 25 million residents of the Seoul metropolitan area—within easy reach of 8,000 North Korean big guns loaded with artillery shells from Pyongyang's huge stockpile of biological and chemical weapons—this sort of belligerent talk shouldn't just be scary. It should be terrifying. As acclaimed military analyst Mark Bowden wrote earlier this year in *The Atlantic*, the U.S. and South Korea have no good options in stopping Pyongyang from developing an offensive, modern nuclear arsenal. Either a full-on invasion or a surgical

See NORTH on Next Page



Don't paint all Trump backers as idiots and fools

It is apparently de rigueur to make fun of President Donald Trump supporters these days. It is not enough to go after the Great Leader, who is tweeting himself into messy, muddy waters with some nonsensical twiddle. We must make the supporters of the president look like fools, idiots and rubes who are one row short of a full set of dentures.

Case in point: NPR decided to tweet out the Declaration of Independence, and some sad folks didn't recognize the brilliant blueprint for our inalienable rights. They thought it was a call to arms from that violent and revolutionary news source that is more likely to kill you with boredom than with sedition. Anyone who actually believed NPR was encouraging a coup has spent a little bit too much time hanging out on Sesame Street.

But worse than the people who didn't get the joke, the mainstream pooh-bahs decided to take a swipe at the president's people by suggesting they were the only ones who fell for the tweetstorm. How stupid, they implied, that these idiots actually didn't recognize the handiwork of Thomas Jefferson, delivered up in 140-character servings.

Sniff, gawd, bring on the brie and Chablis.

The assumption that only Trump supporters were boondoggled into believing that NPR was calling for the overthrow of government is the same type of pretentious arrogance (I know, to-may-to, to-maaa-to) that caused so many people to react violently when President Barack Obama talked about the poor folks who "cling to their guns and their religion." It is the sort of progressive put-down that made a lot of people vote for Trump as a big "F U" to the establishment, without actually considering the consequences of their act of defiance.

I'm not saying everyone who voted for Trump did it to "get back" at the schoolyard bullies, the ones who were always telling them they weren't good enough, tolerant enough, organic enough, multicultural enough, tech-savvy enough, gender-sensitive enough, and so on and so forth to the tenth power of nausea.

I am saying that suggestions like the one that only Trump supporters got fooled by the NPR tweets are the reason CNN will fail in getting the nation riled up over another tweet involving a wrestling match. When North Korea is sending missiles into the air and you are still licking your wounds about being dissed by the White House, you clearly have not gauged the spirit of the "Hillbilly Resistance," the one that doesn't wear cute little pink crochet hats or throw around hashtags like peace signs.

I've been annoyed at the childish, churlish nature of our president. Who but the most die-hard devotee hasn't? Yet, every time

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS

Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



I get on my high horse to complain about the most recent outrage from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., I see this absolute disdain for the men and women who voted for the "wrong" candidate, and I understand why the cable news shows will not get their wish.

Trump will not be impeached on their watch, and it's not because there won't be any grounds dug up from the bottom of a bottle of vodka. There may indeed be something that Robert Mueller uncovers in his search to shake the cobwebs out of the Trump campaign.

But I have a hard time believing that the men and women in Congress, who were elected to represent their constituents to the best of their abilities and not spend their time insulting them, would be persuaded to vote in favor of impeachment without a real smoking gun.

Mika and Joe can write all the op-eds they want complaining about how "not sane" the president is, and it will just make his supporters that much more convinced there is a vast left-wing conspiracy out to get him. CNN can complain about being attacked on a daily basis by the president, and the base will continue to believe the network deserves it. NPR can try to stay above the fray, as it usually does, but unless it decides to tweet out a few episodes of "Duck Dynasty," I'm not sure any of Trump's supporters will pay attention.

A lot of people out there are tired of being called stupid, whether directly to their faces or indirectly with the raised eyebrow of the highbrow. I almost think they can deal with being called racist, sexist or homophobic (which some are, some aren't and who cares anyway, since liberals are exactly the same,) but cannot deal with being ridiculed for their allegedly inferior intellects.

When people do that, they just galvanize the Hillbilly Resistance to reject any notion that the press is in danger, that Trump is a beast, that Ivanka is a Stepford daughter, that Melania lives in a tower and lets down her hair on weekends, and that we are in danger of another revolution.

#giveusabreak.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

NRA's call to arms diverts attention from devastating crime study

The National Rifle Association is no doubt grateful for the sensation it caused last week with a video featuring propagandist Dana Loesch.

In 2015, Loesch starred in another NRA video on the depredations of the "godless left." In her telling, liberals sought nothing less than the extermination of decent Americans, attacking not only "our right to believe," Loesch said, but "our right to survive."

Loesch's latest service to the NRA all but announces civil war. If video technology had existed in South Carolina circa 1860, and secessionist propaganda were assigned to the cause's most unscrupulous partisans, something similar might have emerged from Charleston.

The NRA's violence-themed videos, like tweets from

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We demand co-management

This is the first in a series of letters about the Trump administration efforts to overturn marine monuments in the Pacific, particularly the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. I wish to begin on a positive note, and suggest an area where everyone in the community can agree.

Ten years ago, when we were advocating for the creation of the monument, the Friends of the Mariana Trench, based on advice we received from The Pew Charitable Trusts, asked the Bush administration to grant the Northern Mariana Islands government co-management over the entire monument.

Our vision statement, which we published in this newspaper in October 2008 and posted online on numerous blogs, outlined how we wanted the federal and territorial government to be equal partners in managing the federal resources. Unfortunately, the current situation does not give the Northern Mariana Islands co-management; rather, decisions are made "in consultation with" our local government.

Now that control of submerged lands has been granted to the Northern Mariana Islands government around the three islands within the Islands Unit, it would make sense to manage the entire monument area—both the federal and the territorial resources, including the islands—as one management area, with both governments acting as equal partners.

Granting co-management and protecting the entire geographic ecosystem will fulfill the intent of the NMI Constitution, which says the islands of Asuncion, Maug, and Uracus "shall be maintained as uninhabited and used only for the preservation and protection of natural resources, including but not limited to bird, wildlife, and plant species." (Article XIV, Section 2)

I encourage Gov. Torres and Delegate Sablan to reach out to President Trump and demand that our government be granted co-management of the monument. This is the best way to ensure that our people have a seat at the table.

Ignacio V. Cabrera

Agag, Saipan
Friends of the Monument

NORTH

From Page 10

strike on North Korea's nuclear facilities is likely to leave millions of South Koreans—and up to 30,000 U.S. troops—dead.

The stakes could scarcely be higher. What the world needs is a calm, American-led effort to improve relationships with Kim Jong Un and North Korea's military to address the nation's fear that it is surrounded by enemies. What it doesn't need is a unilateral American effort that is built on a diplomatic amateur's bluster and denial.

(c)2017 The San Diego Union-Tribune

the gutter of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, divert attention from worthier subjects. In this case, that includes a powerful—and, for the gun movement, devastating—new study published last week.

Researchers led by Stanford Law professor John Donohue evaluated crime data from 1977 to 2014, comparing the majority of states that let residents carry firearms without demonstrating a particular need (so-called "shall issue" right-to-carry states) against those with stricter gun regulations.

A panel of the National Research Council had previously investigated the effects of right-to-carry laws, but its 2004 report was inconclusive. The Stanford study used 14 more years of data and employed multiple statistical models—including one used by the gun movement's favorite-data cruncher, "More Guns, Less Crime" author John Lott. Yet the researchers found that even Lott's model showed a link between right-to-carry laws and increased violence.

"Ten years after the adoption of RTC laws," Donohue's report states, "violent crime is estimated to be 13-15 percent higher than it would have been without the RTC law." The increase in crime was so pronounced, in fact, that right-to-carry states would need to double their prison populations to counteract it.

Interestingly, researchers found the effect of right-to-carry laws on murder rates to be a wash. But the finding about increased violent crime is nonetheless a frontal assault on long-standing declarations from the gun movement that more guns lead to less crime.

The new study is "probably the most rigorous and relevant piece of gun policy research to come along in decades," Daniel Webster, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, told me via email.

"The ripple effects of a rapidly growing number of people carrying guns with them and in their vehicles are profound—more

Trump, China, videos and North Korea

President Donald Trump said back in January it would never happen, but it did. North Korea successfully launched an intercontinental ballistic missile, meaning it could maybe someday hit the West Coast with a nuclear weapon. Here is a major concern demanding answers, and here is one thing that will not work.

That would be for Trump to send North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a video in which the president grabs him, throws him to the ground and starts punching him in the face.

Trump's juvenile foray against CNN's juveniles may seem irrelevant, a trivialization of a dead-serious issue. But that's what Trump has been up to too much lately: trivializing, trading confidence in his presidency for pettiness.

Can he rise above that? He better, and he has in fact made good moves. One of the best early on in his presidency was to establish what seemed a good relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping. China is North Korea's biggest trading partner, has already hurt that nation with a coal boycott and could crush it practically overnight with enough similar measures. Through them, there could be peaceful nuclear disarmament, and the world could be a safer place.

But while it has been saying mostly the right things, China has done little, probably because it fears an eventual union of South and North Korea with the U.S. military sitting near its border. Trump has expressed disappointment even as his administration has taken some steps encouraging China to act. It is, for instance, selling \$1 billion worth of weapons to Taiwan, a nation of islands China figures on swallowing one of these days.

Other Korean options are not pretty, as experts inform us. We could have an all-out bombardment during which the North Koreans would likely kill millions in South Korea, not so cheap a price. Taking out Kim and his regime sounds like a good idea, but how? South Korea's president says a smaller U.S. military presence there could maybe make the North relax and step back some, but probably not. An Atlantic magazine writer says the best of all the bad options would be simply to live with the risk, doing all we can to improve our

By FRANCIS WILKINSON

Bloomberg View

Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg View. Readers may email him at fwilkinson1@bloomberg.net.



assaults, more gun theft, and I suspect, though this hasn't been formally tested, more unintentional shootings and suicides," Webster wrote. "The RTC movement has greatly increased our population's exposure to firearms—not simply by influencing gun ownership, but by making it commonplace to bring guns with you wherever you go."

A recent Pew Research Center survey revealed that about one-third of Americans believe the NRA argument that more guns make society safer. It also showed a majority of gun owners are concerned about their personal safety. Given the intense polarization that shapes gun politics, and the reach of gun-movement propaganda, the new study is unlikely to change minds anytime soon.

But the study lays the groundwork for more research—something the NRA vigorously resists. And it poses a challenge to conservative lawmakers not unlike the scientific consensus on climate change. "What is important about Donohue's work methodologically is that he demonstrated that the violence-facilitating effects of RTC laws were robust to a range of statistical models and analytic methods," said Webster.

In other words, if the gun movement hopes to refute the study's conclusions, it's going to need more than another helping of video bile.

Trump, China, videos and North Korea

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



missile defense. I don't think so.

I think the best course is to bring China around, and for two reasons. One is that even if a shattered economy does not change North Korea's attitudes, it could very well destroy the country's ability to act on them. The second is that China is emerging as a superpower, and if we do not learn to work with the Chinese in a realistic, practical fashion, the consequences could be calamitous. The New York Times recently reviewed two books saying a U.S.-China war could be a real possibility at some point, and such a war could be world-crushing.

While there might be some advantage for China in letting North Korea further develop its nuclear capacities, the possibilities of disruptive hurt are hardly negligible. The United States would do well to be stern on some issues while seeking out means of mutually beneficial cooperation. It would make sense to try to return to something like the Obama administration's Asian trade pact to further invigorate our economy and help better balance power in Asia.

As much as some hate to admit it, Trump has his virtues, but tweets are not one of them. The more he looks like a tasteless, vindictive, small-minded, self-obsessed president, the less effective he will be. The world, not so unexpectedly, is a mess, and we need him to use his virtues to make it less of one.

I am sure no video of Kim was ever planned, but any such video breeds trepidation that whacks effective action as much as fists whack the guy on the floor. What we need soon is another sit-down session with Xi, Mr. President.

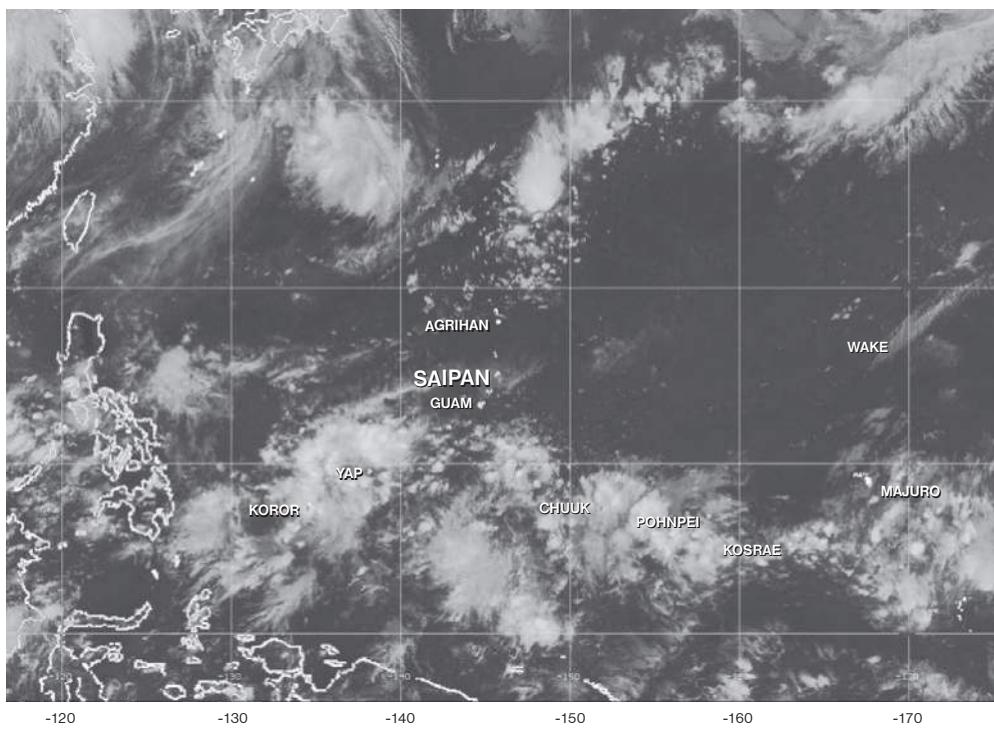
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88° ▼ 78° **▲ 88° ▼ 78°** **▲ 88° ▼ 78°** **▲ 88° ▼ 78°** **▲ 88° ▼ 78°**

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry benign pattern is now in place over the Marianas and expected to continue through the week. Latest model guidance shows little in the way of any organized weather pattern over the region. Brief periods of mostly cloudy skies with periods of spotty showers are likely into next weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86°	/	79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85°	/	77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84°	/	79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	59°	/	48°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	95°	/	75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88°	/	81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86°	/	75°
London	Rain	70°	/	57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86°	/	67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90°	/	79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55°	/	43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86°	/	81°
New York	Showers	84°	/	68°
Osaka	Rain	88°	/	75°
Paris	Showers	72°	/	57°
Busan	Rain	82°	/	73°
Rome	Sunny	89°	/	72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	90°	/	73°
San Francisco	Sunny	66°	/	53°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	86°	/	72°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	86°	/	73°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	90°	/	72°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
 ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
 ■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
 ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

2:41 AM	LOW TIDE	1.15
7:26 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
2:48 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.26
9:43 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.87

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:31 AM	7:38 PM
Tuesday	-	7:21 AM	8:24 PM
Wednesday	-	8:13 AM	9:08 PM
Thursday	-	9:04 AM	9:51 PM
Friday	-	9:56 AM	10:33 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 6, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily				UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily			
UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota				UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7			
UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6				UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota			
UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily				UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily			
UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily				UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7				UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am 2, 3, 4				7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				ZE581 10:10am 3:55pm Daily			
TW308 2:35am 6:20am 6, 7				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1, 2, 3			
OZ626 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
7C3403 4:45am 8:30am Daily				TW307 8:05pm 1:35am+1 5, 6			
UJ652 4:45am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7				OZ625 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 4:00pm 7:45pm Daily				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
ZE582 4:45pm 8:35pm Daily				UJ651 10:00pm 3:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7							

\$200K boating infrastructure grant for Guam

YORKTOWN, Virginia—U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced Friday Guam will receive a Boating Infrastructure Grant of \$200,000 to improve boating infrastructure and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Zinke announced the funds, part of \$32 million nationwide, at an event with boating, recreation and tourism leaders in Yorktown, Virginia.

Zinke made the announcement at the Yorktown Historic Freight Shed Lawn, where he was joined by Virginia Rep. Scott Taylor. Following the event, Zinke had a round-table discussion with boating and fishing stakeholders focusing on the relationship between Interior and the boating industry.

The funding announced Friday is through three grant programs: \$14.7 million

through the Boating Infrastructure Grant program, \$15.4 million in funds through the Clean Vessel Act program and \$1.7 million in Maritime Heritage Grants.

“These three grant programs provide critical support to local communities, whether through the preservation of American maritime heritage or by ensuring the facilities

and waters anglers and boaters depends on are in the best condition,” said Zinke. “Although these grants come from different funding sources, none would be possible without great partnerships.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s “BIG” program provides funding to support dedicated boat tie-up facilities and associated amenities and helps Americans enjoy

the nation’s waters and our cherished wildlife, natural and cultural resources.

Approximately \$9.5 million will be awarded competitively to support 10 projects in six states under the

BIG, from which states can receive up to \$1.5 million in federal funding per project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also provide

approximately \$5.2 million to 29 states, commonwealths, and territories under the BIG Tier I subprogram, from which recipients can obtain up to \$200,000 in federal funding. States and their partners will provide more than \$14.5 million in additional non-federal matching funds toward these projects.

Funding for the BIG program comes from the Sport

» Zinke also announces \$32 million in grants nationwide

Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which boaters and manufacturers fund through excise and other taxes on certain fishing and boating equipment and gasoline. Since

its inception in 2000, the BIG program has awarded \$180 million to projects for large transient recreational boats, including the construction of more than 5,000 berths for

boaters across most states and U.S. territories.

For more information about the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program visit <http://wsfprograms.fws.gov/>. (DOI)

MVA brings Korean celebrities to Rota, Saipan



Celebrity photography club Nemo shoots with Korean celebrities at As Matmos on Rota in June 2017. MVA

A number of Korean celebrities interested in photography and cameras recently turned their focus on the Marianas with a photo trip organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Celebrity photography club Nemo was on Rota and Saipan on June 26-July 1, 2017, with actor Jungjin Lee, singing group Ulala Session member Myunghoon Kim, Hyuna and Euaerin of K-pop idol group 9-Muses, and notable commercial film producer Soyoun Cho.

The group visited the major attractions on Rota including award-winning Teteto Beach,

Song Song Village Lookout, As Matmos, and Swimming Hole, as well as must-see photo spots on Saipan.

“Through experiencing leisure activities like trolling, trekking, swimming, and more, our visiting celebrities captured vivid images and videos of the Mariana Islands on their cameras, and uploaded the images during their visit to their respective Instagram accounts,” said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateyman. “These Instagram posts have generated a tremendous amount of buzz online among Korean fans.”

To further utilize the pro-

motion to increase awareness of the Marianas, the MVA is planning a Marianas photo exhibition featuring pictures taken by the participants during the tour. The photos and videos will also be used for both online and offline marketing programs, especially through the MVA’s official social media channels in Korea, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and various popular travel related social media platforms.

The group lodged at Rota Resort & Country Club and Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort during the tour. Jeju Air also supported the tour. (MVA)

Chase takes over Coast Guard Sector Guam



Capt. James Pruett and Capt. Christopher Chase conduct a uniform inspection of Coast Guard Sector Guam crewmembers during a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Guam, July 7, 2017. U.S. COAST GUARD/LT. J.G. IIA MILLER

SANTA RITA, Guam—Capt. Christopher Chase relieved Capt. James Pruett as commander of Coast Guard Sector Guam during a change of command ceremony at Naval Base Guam last Friday.

Chase is a native of Bay Village, Ohio and graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a bachelor’s degree in Marine Science in addition to earning a Master of Science degree in Safety Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Chase’ previous field assignments include serving as the deputy commander at Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., as well as the Sector Sault Ste. Marie response department head.

Chase received his flight wings in 1997 and accumulated more than 3,500 flight hours in variants of the MH-

65 Dolphin helicopter.

Other previous assignments include executive officer and operations officer at Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Mich., command safety officer at Coast Guard Aviation Logistics Center in Elizabeth City, N.C., H-65 fleet instructor pilot at Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Mobile, Ala., duty standing pilot tours at Coast Guard Air Station Savannah, Ga., and Air Station Kodiak, Alaska and as a deck watch officer aboard the now decommissioned Coast Guard cutter *Chase*.

Pruett will be the new chief of staff for the Coast Guard 11th District in Alameda, Calif.

Prior to assuming command of Coast Guard Sector Guam, Pruett was assigned to Coast Guard Sector Miami as the deputy sector command-

er. Pruett served nine years in several legal assignments as a judge advocate and law specialist. His assignments included serving as the staff judge advocate at the Coast Guard Academy and chief counsel to the superintendent in New London, Conn., deputy staff judge advocate for the Coast Guard 7th District in Miami and Staff Legal Officer Pacific Area/Maintenance and Logistic Command Pacific in Alameda.

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition ensuring all hands know of the shift in authority and that a duly-authorized officer is placed in charge of the unit.

Rear Adm. Vincent Atkins, commander, Coast Guard 14th District, was the presiding official for the ceremony. (USCG)



Korean celebrities visit scenic sites on Rota in June 2017 on a familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA



Ulala Session member Myunghoon Kim on route to Rota in June 2017 on a photography club tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA



Korean actor Jungjin Lee at the Rota International Airport on July 1, 2017, on a photography club tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority. MVA

Nation

G-20 shut Trump out on climate, strike deal on trade

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—World powers lined up against U.S. President Donald Trump on climate change, reaffirming their support for international efforts to fight global warming.

The Group of 20 summit that ended Saturday in Hamburg also revealed tensions on trade, as the U.S. administration and international partners forged a deal that endorsed open markets but acknowledged countries had a right to put up barriers to block unfair practices.

The summit's final statement made clear that the other countries and the European Union unanimously supported the Paris climate agreement rejected by Trump. They called the deal to reduce greenhouse gases "irreversible" and vowed to implement it "swiftly" and without exception.

The other countries, from European powers such as Germany to emerging ones such as China and energy producers such as Saudi Arabia, merely "took note" of the U.S. position, which was boxed off in a separate paragraph that the summit host, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, made clear applied only to the United States.

She said the U.S. position was "regrettable" but that the summit had achieved "good results in some areas," and cited a hard-won agreement on trade that included Trump and the United States but did not erase the differences over the issue. She said the talks had been at times "difficult."

Trump's chief economic adviser played down tensions between the U.S. and other nations as the president headed home from his first G-20 summit.

Gary Cohn told reporters aboard Air Force One that while communiques "are never easy," he thought this one



United States President Donald Trump speaks at a Women and Development event at the G20 summit Saturday, July 8, 2017 in Hamburg, Germany. AP

Key points from the G20 summit of world leaders

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—Leaders of the Group of 20 rich and developing countries spent two days trying to come up with common positions on climate change, trade and migration at their summit in Hamburg, Germany.

Implementation depends on the will of national governments to take action, and compliance isn't perfect. But a common statement of purpose sets the tone for policy and enables peer pressure.

"came together pretty reasonably. He said having "a diversity of opinions in a group of 20" was not unexpected.

"To get 20 of your friends to

Here's a look at what the leaders did—and didn't—agree on:

AGREED

To support free trade and open markets, a key promise from earlier summits aimed at helping the global economy grow in the wake of the Great Recession.

To acknowledge that countries can use "legitimate trade defense instruments" to protect their companies if trade partners are

agree to have dinner tonight is pretty hard," Cohn said.

Cohn added that while the U.S. obviously has chosen to get out of the Paris agreement,

taking advantage of them.

To fight terrorism by, among other things, pushing internet providers to detect and remove extremist content.

To make a renewed push to reduce excess steel production capacity—primarily in China—that has led to low prices and pressure on other producers.

COULDN'T AGREE

To unanimously support the Paris agreement on climate

"we do go out of our way to say in there that that doesn't mean we don't support the environment and we're still working for the environment."

change; a paragraph was agreed in which the summit participants "take note" of the U.S. decision to withdraw. It says the other leaders agree the Paris agreement is "irreversible."

To pursue United Nations sanctions such as asset freezes and travel bans against criminals smuggling people from Africa and the Middle East to Europe. A European Union push for such sanctions ran into opposition from several countries.

On trade, the talks preserved the G-20's condemnation of protectionism, a statement that has been a hallmark of the group's efforts to combat the

Hiring surged last month in a sign of US economic vitality

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hiring surged in June in a surprising show of U.S. economic vitality eight years into the recovery from the Great Recession. Pay gains remain weak, though, a stark reminder of one of the economy's key shortcomings.

Employers added 222,000 jobs last month, and hiring in the previous two months was revised much higher. Job gains have now averaged nearly 180,000 a month this year, only slightly below last year's pace.

Unemployment ticked up to 4.4 percent from 4.3 percent, but mostly for a good reason: More Americans started looking for work, a sign of confidence in the economy.

Last month, economists worried that hiring would slow as employers struggled to fill jobs from a dwindling supply of unemployed workers. Friday's data suggests companies are still finding plenty of people to hire.

That has given economists greater confidence the economy still has room to run.

"This balanced pace should enable the current economic expansion to be maintained much beyond the historical norm," Russell Price, senior economist for Ameriprise Financial, said.

The current expansion is the third-longest on record.

So far, the job market and economy look broadly the same as they did last year, though President Donald Trump has boasted that his policies are accelerating hiring and growth.

The economy's durabil-

ity appears to be benefiting more people. The unemployment rate among blacks fell in June to its lowest level in 17 years, at 7.1 percent. The gap with whites, whose rate was 3.8 percent, persisted. The rate among Latinos dropped to 4.8 percent, the lowest in 11 years.

Even with June's strong hiring, average hourly pay rose just 2.5 percent from a year earlier. The last time the unemployment rate was this low, wages were rising by roughly 4 percent. Normally, as the number of

unemployed dwindles, employers raise pay to attract job seekers.

Economists offer a number of explanations for why that dynamic hasn't yet kicked in.

One factor: The influx of job seekers last month - who had previously been on the sidelines, not counted as unemployed - might have offset some upward wage pressures. Employers had more applicants to choose from.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said many workers are too cautious to push for raises, partly because of the lingering

global financial crisis and the aftereffects of the Great Recession.

The group added new elements, however: an acknowledgment that trade must be "reciprocal and mutually advantageous" and that countries could use "legitimate trade defense instruments" if they are being taken advantage of.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there was "incredible consensus" on the issue and that the U.S. pushed to include the phrasing about "reciprocal" trade.

The wording echoes concerns voiced by Trump, who has said trade must be fair as well as open and must benefit American companies and workers. He has focused on trade relationships where other countries run large surpluses with the U.S., meaning they sell more to U.S. consumers than they buy from American companies.

That's in contrast to the approach favored by Merkel and the EU, who stress multilateral trade frameworks such as the World Trade Organization.

More broadly, concerns about trade and its impact on workers figured large in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and in Britain's referendum vote to leave the European Union, a free-trade bloc.

Yet pro-trade officials from the European Union pointed out that the language in the G-20 statement contains no departure from the current global system of regulation, which already allows countries to take defensive measures within the rules of the WTO. Those can include import taxes that offset unfair practices such as government subsidies or below-cost pricing.

Despite the trade agreement, the summit was marked by clashing visions, especially where Washington and the European Union were concerned.

effects of the Great Recession, when nearly 9 million people lost their jobs.

And some businesses have decided they can't raise prices enough to afford meaningful pay raises.

That cycle of limited wage gains and low prices has kept inflation in check.

John McAuliffe, chief executive of Sylvan Learning, a company that offers tutoring to students from kindergarten through high school, is hiring more teachers and expanding. Yet it is cutting costs to maintain profits, rather than raising prices.

Nation

Medicaid cut in GOP health bill worries the nursing home set

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Amy Bernard and her brother kept their mother out of a nursing home as long as they could, until Parkinson's and dementia took their toll and she was seriously injured in a fall.

Bernard is happy with her mother's nursing home care, but it comes at a steep price: \$7,000 per month, an amount that would be way beyond the older woman's means if not for Medicaid, which picks up \$3,000 of the tab.

Which is why Bernard and many other Americans like her are watching the health care debate on Capitol Hill with trepidation.

The Senate Republicans' plan to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act would cut projected Medicaid spending over the next decade by 25 percent.

Supporters of the bill say nursing home subsidies would not suffer significant cuts, but opponents say they are inevitable. The uncertainty is frustrating to those who rely on them.

In the case of Bernard's 83-year-old mother, retired teacher Franceen Golditch, the \$4,000 that she receives each month from her pension and Social Security goes almost entirely to the nursing home.



Chuck Schwarz, left, holds hand with his wife Cathy at Heritage Woods of South Elgin, Friday, June 30, 2017, in South Elgin, Ill. Medicaid Americans 65 and older and the disabled make up about a quarter of Medicaid recipients but account for two-thirds of its expenditures. AP

regulations would be eased, giving states more flexibility to tailor their programs.

The proposed changes are "an important step towards strengthening the Medicaid program and ensuring vital funds go to the most vulnerable," Hunter said. He said the bill makes provisions, for example, for possible medical advances such as drugs for Alzheimer's or other diseases of the aged.

Joe Baker, president of the Medicare Rights Center, an advocacy group that opposes the bill, said substantial cuts eventually would hurt those who rely on nursing home assistance.

"You can't say you are going to save a lot of money on kids and pregnant women because there isn't a lot of money there to save," Baker said. "Look at the population that is costing you a lot and, frankly, that is older adults and older adults who are 85-plus."

Medicare, the federal health insurance program that primarily covers people 65 and older, does not cover long-term nursing home care.

"Without Medicaid supplementing, I don't know what would happen," said Bernard, a self-employed graphic artist in Boynton Beach, Florida. She added: "I have a house and kids to support myself. I honestly have no answer."

While the federal-state Medicaid program is most often associated with poor

children and single mothers, almost two-thirds of its spending goes to the elderly and the disabled, even though they make up just 1 in 4 recipients.

The reason: Well over half the nation's 1.3 million senior citizens in nursing homes receive Medicaid. The burden is expected to balloon as the 74 million surviving baby boomers—those born between 1946 and 1964—get older. They are 52 to 71 now.

In part because of the Medicaid cuts, the GOP bill lacks the votes to pass in the Senate, which is expected to take up the measure again after Congress' weeklong July 4 recess.

The bill would cut Medicaid's projected budget over the next 10 years by a combined \$772 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That would decrease the amount projected to be spent federally on Medicaid during

that time to about \$4.2 trillion.

Even with those cuts, nursing home patients would continue to receive significant assistance because federal Medicaid spending would grow by 20 percent over the next decade from its current level, said Zach Hunter, a spokesman for the GOP-led House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which helped write the House version of the bill.

Meanwhile, he said, federal

California fires spread quickly; blazes tamed in Colorado

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP)—A pair of California wildfires have quickly spread, threatening hundreds of homes and forcing evacuations at a popular lakeside campground and a summer camp where flames temporarily trapped children and counselors, a fire official said.

The fire that started early Saturday afternoon in Santa Barbara County had spread to both sides of Highway 154 and was "completely out of control," county fire Capt. Dave Zaniboni said. About 90 children and 50 counselors were struck at the Circle V Ranch and had to take shelter there until they could be safely evacuated.

In other parts of the West, evacuation orders were lifted in Colorado and Montana towns threatened by wildfires, while air and ground crews battled a growing grass fire in northwestern Colorado.

The Santa Barbara County fire was one of three in Cali-

fornia that grew quickly as much of the state baked in heat that broke records. A record that stood 131 years in Los Angeles was snapped when the temperature spiked at 98 degrees downtown. The previous record of 95 degrees was set in 1886, the National Weather Service said.

Excessive heat sent Southern Californians flocking to beaches and in search of water, shade and air conditioning to escape the heat.

Forecasters warned that triple-digit temperatures up to 110 degrees would be common in some inland areas and could be deadly for the elderly, children and outdoor workers. Air quality reached unhealthy and very unhealthy in areas inland from Los Angeles.

High temps and dry gusts tripled the size of another Santa Barbara wildfire to nearly 30 square miles (about 77 sq. kilometers) over eight hours and forced evacuations of about 200 homes in a rural

area east of Santa Maria, fire spokesman Kirk Sturm said.

After five years of severe drought, California got a big break with record rainfall and snowpack in parts of the state this year that has delayed the start of fire season in some places, but has also led to explosive vegetation growth that could fuel future fires.

In Northern California, a Butte County wildfire swept through grassy foothills and destroyed 10 structures, including homes, and led to several minor injuries.

Burned-out pickup trucks were left in ashes, surrounded by charred, leafless trees. The metal frame of a mobile home and a vintage stove were left standing in scorched debris at one site.

The blaze about 60 miles north of Sacramento grew rapidly to more than 4 square miles (nearly 11 sq. kilometers) and was 20 percent contained, according to the California Department of Forestry

and Fire Protection.

The area burning was about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of Oroville, where spillways in the nation's tallest dam began crumbling from heavy rains this winter and led to temporary evacuation orders for 200,000 residents downstream. On Saturday, authorities issued an evacuation for about 250 homes threatened by the fire.

In the middle of the afternoon, Santa Barbara officials sent out alerts to residents and campers near Cachuma Lake to evacuate as the fire started near Whittier Camp, Zaniboni said.

The lake, which was nearly bone dry last summer after the severe drought, is popular for camping, boating and fishing. Residents were also ordered to leave cabins in the Los Padres National Forest.

The fire burned at least 4.7 square miles (12 sq. kilometers), including a portion of the Cachuma Lake campground, and was not contained.

ACROSS THE NATION

Jury: Newlywed had husband killed to get his insurance money

CLEVELAND (AP)—A newlywed accused of soliciting her firefighter husband's killing to collect \$100,000 in insurance money has been convicted of aggravated murder in a scheme that was flawed from the start: His ex-wife was still the beneficiary of his policy. Uloma Curry-Walker, 45, could receive life in prison without parole for the November 2013 slaying of William Walker, whom she had married just four months earlier. Jurors deliberated for less than two hours before coming back with the verdict Friday, Cleveland.com reported. Prosecutors said Curry-Walker was nearing financial ruin after running up tens of thousands of dollars in debt when she asked her then-17-year-old daughter and the daughter's boyfriend to find someone to kill her husband so she could collect the insurance money.

Utah man celebrates 100th birthday by hitting the slopes

SNOWBIRD, Utah (AP)—A Utah man celebrated his 100th birthday by doing what he loves most: Skiing. Snowbird Ski Resort took advantage of lingering snow to groom a short run for George Jedenoff to cruise down Wednesday before he was given a cake and plaque with one of his favorite sayings: "Age is just a number." In a birthday speech, Jedenoff echoed those words. "Don't let the age bother you," he said. "Don't let the negative things in your life, of which we all have a lot, outweigh all the positive blessings that you have." People should view life's obstacles as opportunities rather than problems, Jedenoff said. "Life is so short, even 100 on this Earth," he said. "Make every minute count." Jedenoff was joined by longtime skiing friends, his children and grandchildren, who came to see him attach a "100+ Ski Club" patch to his jacket. Jedenoff has skied down Utah's powered slopes nearly every season since learning the sport at 43.

Asia

Solving N. Korea: Even allies have different priorities

One reason North Korea is the world's most dire nuclear hotspot is that among the most important players, even allies and semi-allies have different desires and priorities. An enemy to some, a bulwark to others, a frustration to all, with decades of unfinished business coloring the picture in ways unique to each nation.

North Korea's successful launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile July 4 raised the heat on tensions that have been building for decades, leaving the international community scrambling for an answer to containing Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

Below, Associated Press journalists who cover the standoff from both Koreas, Japan, China and the U.S. explain how each country hopes it is resolved.

SOUTH KOREA

The ultimate dream for South Korea is clear: A unified Korean Peninsula, led by Seoul and its values.

The problem, of course, and the source of seven decades of animosity and bloodshed, is that North Korea harbors a mirror image of that ambition.

In the short term, what South Korea wants depends entirely on who you ask.

That group of elderly men in camouflage and combat boots who are burning an effigy of North Korea's dictator on a Seoul street won't have the same goals as the North Korea sympathizer who slashed the face of U.S. Ambassador Mark Lippert in 2015.

After a decade of hard-line conservative rule, the current government in Seoul is headed by liberal President Moon Jae-in who wants North Korea to stop conducting nuclear and missile tests so he can begin to implement an engagement policy.

That doesn't look likely to happen any time soon.

Most average South Koreans support the presence of the 28,500 U.S. troops here, as long as crime isn't a problem. They look with unease at North Korean provocations but seem to worry far less than the rest of the world about Pyongyang's threats to annihilate the South.

What they really want is for the economy to soar.

■ Foster Klug, AP's bureau chief in Seoul, has covered the Koreas since 2005.

NORTH KOREA

North Korea has made no secret about what its demands are. Nothing is more important to the North's ruling regime



This photo on July 4, 2017, distributed by the North Korean government shows what was said to be the launch of a Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile, ICBM, in North Korea's northwest.

than its own survival.

To that end, it wants Washington to abandon its "hostile policy" aimed at forcing the country into collapse.

In concrete terms, Pyongyang wants direct talks toward a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War,

which was halted after what was supposed to be a temporary armistice. Signing a treaty would also mean formal recognition of North Korea by the U.S. government and entail some sort of a security agreement guaranteeing Washington will not attack the North.

In the interim, the North wants an end to huge military exercises the U.S. holds each year with South Korea.

Pyongyang says it ultimately wants to see the Korean Peninsula reunited. Its often-repeated demand is for Washington to stay out and let Koreans decide their own fate.

Though actually achieving any of these demands would be tremendously difficult, and seems to be growing more difficult every year, North Korea has been quite consistent in what it claims to want.

And as long as its leaders feel vulnerable, it's not likely to give up much ground.

■ Eric Talmadge, the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief since 2013.

UNITED STATES

The top U.S. priority, apart from defending South Korea as a treaty ally, is to rid the Korean peninsula of nuclear weapons—meaning the North's weapons.

The administration of President George H.W. Bush seemed to set the stage in September 1991 when he announced the withdrawal of all naval and land-based tactical nuclear weapons, including

from South Korea. Pyongyang not only persisted in its nuclear ambitions but in recent years has accelerated its program and all but closed the door to denuclearization.

That has put added -- even urgent -- emphasis on the other U.S. priority: stopping the North from developing a nuclear weapon capable of hitting U.S. soil, while also defending South Korea and Japan, which already are within range of the North's shorter-range missiles. That is why Washington resists talk by China and Russia of halting military exercises with South Korea in exchange for concessions by the North, or withdrawing any of the approximately 28,500 U.S. troops based permanently on the peninsula.

Washington sees little point in negotiating a formal end to the Korean War, which was



Source: AP, BBC Graphic: TNS

halted in 1953 with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, because it sees far greater urgency in the nuclear issue.

■ AP National Security Writer Robert Burns in Washington has covered the Pentagon and U.S. national security issues since 1990

CHINA

As the closest thing to what North Korea might call an ally, China is under greater pressure than any nation to curb the regime's provocations and set it on a path to a long-term resolution of the standoff. Yet Beijing insists it doesn't have that kind of influence with Pyongyang, and has largely rejected calls to curtail two-way commerce that accounts for an estimated 90 percent of the North's foreign trade.

At the same time, Beijing would like to return to the period in the last decade when it received kudos for hosting six-nation talks in which the North's representatives sat down with the U.S. and others to discuss steps toward ending

its nuclear programs in return for incentives.

With no prospects for an immediate return to negotiations, China has instead been pushing for a "dual suspension" in which the North temporarily halts its nuclear and missile tests while South Korea and the U.S. put large-scale war games on hold. That could facilitate talks, calming the situation and preserving the status quo whereby North Korea continues to act as a buffer between China and the pro-U.S. South.

China's relations with Pyongyang may be in deep freeze, and the North's actions could spur rivals the U.S. and Japan to responses that could work to China's disadvantage. But ultimately, the specter of a North Korean collapse is far, far scarier to the rulers in Beijing.

■ Beijing-based correspondent Christopher Bodeen has reported on China for more 15 years.

JAPAN

As a staunch American ally, Japan cooperates closely with Washington and backs it in stepping up pressure on North Korea to counter the growing threat from its missile and nuclear programs.

Japan, a non-nuclear state and home to 50,000 American troops, relies on the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" under a bilateral security treaty as a deterrent, and is wary of any escalation in military tensions in the region. It seeks to avoid becoming embroiled in U.S. military actions but is taking a leadership role with the U.S. and South Korea in lobbying other countries, especially China and Russia, to enforce economic sanctions against the North.

Given its proximity to North Korea, Tokyo has sought to exert leverage through diplomacy, such as six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear program, and its own bilateral efforts to get Pyongyang to repatriate Japanese citizens who were abducted by North Korea. More than a dozen Japanese nationals kidnapped and taken to North Korea decades ago to be trained as agents are still believed to be alive, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made their safe return home one of his top priorities.

While an actual attack could bring disaster, the North Korean threat lends Abe leverage in drumming up public support for a stronger military and missile defense systems.

■ Mari Yamaguchi covers Japanese defense and politics from Tokyo.

PH president says he's likely to extend martial law

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—President Rodrigo Duterte said Friday he will likely extend 60 days of martial law he imposed in the southern Philippines to deal with a deadly siege of a city by militants allied with the Islamic State group because the situation remains critical.

Duterte said he would only lift martial rule, which is to expire in about two weeks, if the military and police tell him the danger posed by the militants has abated. The Supreme Court upheld his martial law declaration on Tuesday in a legal boost to the military offensive he ordered to quell the Marawi city siege.

Duterte has said the offensive is winding down and could end soon in Marawi,

which was attacked by hundreds of gunmen waving IS-style black flags on May 23. But scores of gunmen are still holding hostages and continuing to fight in four areas of the lakeside city, a bastion of the Islamic faith in the south.

Asked if he plans to lift martial law this month, Duterte said he consulted the military and police and was told the situation remains critical. He said he would rely on their advice because "they are the ones keeping this republic healthy and alive."

"If they say there is no more danger and everything is OK, then that is the time that we will lift martial law," Duterte said.

Carrying an assault rifle and wearing a military cam-

ouflage uniform, Duterte attempted but failed to fly to Marawi to visit troops Friday due to bad weather. It was his second aborted trip to the predominantly Islamic city, large areas of which resemble a smoldering war zone amid intense fighting and military airstrikes.

"I should show my face there," Duterte said, adding he wants to visit during the fighting to demonstrate his desire "to protect the republic."

Security officials hope the crisis will end before Duterte delivers his annual state of the nation address on July 24, but Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has said he will let commanders set the pace of the battle to avoid adding pressure that could endanger troops.

More than 350 militants, 87 soldiers and police and 39 civilians have been killed in 46 days of fighting, alarming Southeast Asian and Western governments, which fear that the Islamic State group's rule in Syria and Iraq, now collapsing, may have galvanized Asian militants into attempting to create their own so-called Islamic caliphate.

The United States and Australia have deployed surveillance planes to Marawi to help Filipino troops locate the remaining militants holed up in buildings and houses.

Nearly 400,000 residents have abandoned Marawi and outlying towns in Lanao del Sur province, about 800 kilometers (500 miles) southeast of Manila.

World

Putin hails meeting, thinks Trump accepted election denials

HAMBURG, Germany (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed his first face-to-face meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump, saying Saturday he thinks Trump accepted his assurances that Russia didn't meddle in the U.S. presidential election and that their conversation could be a model for improving ties between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters after the two-day Group of 20 summit in Germany ended, Putin said he and Trump had a long discussion about the allegations of Russian interference in last year's election that have dogged Trump's presidency.

The Russian leader said he reiterated his "well-known" position that "there are no grounds" for the allegations.

"He asked many questions on the subject, I tried to answer them all," Putin said. "It seems to me that he has taken note of that and agreed, but it's better to ask him about his attitude."

Putin said his answers were detailed and covered his discussions on the election meddling issue with representatives of the previous administration, including former President Barack Obama. But he would not reveal details of his exchange with Trump, saying the conversation was confidential.

"He asked questions, I replied. It seemed to me that he was satisfied with the answers," Putin said.



AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during a press conference after the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany, Saturday, July 8, 2017, where the leaders of the group of 20 met for two days.

Trump's top envoy to the United Nations quickly disputed the Russian president's assessment of Trump's take-away from their one-on-one meeting.

"President Trump still knows that they meddled. President Putin knows that they meddled, but he is never going to admit to it. And that's

all that happened," Ambassador Nikki Haley told CNN on Saturday.

Trump has avoided firmly blaming Moscow for campaign hacking in the past, and

the day before he met with Putin, he was similarly elusive. He argued variably that it could have been Russia, probably was Russia and indeed was Russia, while insisting it

could have been other countries, too, and adding: "I won't be specific."

In his post-summit remarks, Putin said that a working group on cybersecurity he and

South Syria truce to allay Jordan, Israel fears about Iran

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—A separate truce for southern Syria, brokered by the U.S. and Russia, is meant to help allay growing concerns by neighboring Jordan and Israel about Iranian military ambitions in the area, including fears that Tehran plans to set up a disruptive long-term presence there.

Such apprehensions were stoked by recent movements of Shiite Muslim militias—loyal to Iran and fighting alongside Syrian government forces—toward Jordan's border with Syria, and to another strategic area in the southeast, close to where the two countries meet Iraq.

The advances are part of Syrian President Bashar Assad's push to regain territory from rebel groups, some backed by the West, in the southern Daraa province, and from Islamic State extremists in the southeast, near the triangle with Iraq.

But Syria's neighbors suspect that Iran is pursuing a broader agenda, including carving out a land route through Syria that would create a territorial continuum

from Iran and Iraq to Lebanon. The cease-fire for southern Syria, set to start at noon Sunday, is meant to keep all forces pinned to their current positions, said Jordan's government which participated in the talks.

This would prevent further advances by forces under Iran's command, including Lebanon's Hezbollah militia.

The truce is to be monitored through satellite and drone images as well as observers on the ground, a senior Jordanian official said Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss details with reporters. Syria ally Russia is to deploy military police in the area.

Information on truce compliance could be shared and discussed in different locations, including Jordan, the official said. Israel did not participate in the truce talks, but was presumably briefed by the U.S., the Jordanian official said.

Cease-fires have repeatedly collapsed in Syria's six-year-old civil war, and it's not clear if this one will last. The southern Syria truce is sepa-

rate from so far unsuccessful efforts by Russia, Turkey and Iran to set up "de-escalation zones" in Syria, including in the south.

Israel is expected to watch for truce violations.

Israel has repeatedly said it will not allow Iran to set up a permanent presence in Syria. Israel has carried out a number of airstrikes in Syria against suspected shipments of "game-changing" weapons bound for Hezbollah.

"The question and concern is of course if it will be exploited by the Syrian regime, Hezbollah and Iran to create new facts on the ground," said Chagai Tzuriel, the director general of Israel's Intelligence Ministry.

Ahead of Friday's truce announcement, Jordanian and Israeli officials expressed concerns about Iranian ambitions.

The Jordanian official said the international community, regional powers and Jordan would not tolerate the creation of a "land line all the way from Tehran to Beirut."

Such a "Shiite crescent" would disrupt the regional balance and be considered

Trump agreed to create during their meeting should help prevent such election controversies in the future.

"What is important is that we agreed that there should be no uncertainty in that sphere," he said. "We agreed with the U.S. president to create a working group and work jointly on how to ensure cyberspace security, how to ensure the fulfillment of international legal norms in that sphere and prevent meddling in internal affairs of Russia and the U.S. We believe that if we work that way, and I have no reason to doubt it, there will be no such allegations."

Putin also praised Trump as a strong negotiator who quickly grasps various issues.

"As for relations on personal level, I believe we have established them," Putin said. "Trump's T.V. persona differs sharply from the real man. He is a very straightforward person, grasps precisely what his interlocutor says, quickly analyzes and responds to questions or new elements of the discussion."

The Russian leader said his talks with Trump offered a model for rebuilding Russia-U.S. ties, which have plummeted to post-Cold War lows over the Ukrainian crisis, the war in Syria and other disputes.

South Syria truce to allay Jordan, Israel fears about Iran

a "super red line," he said, referring to rival Sunni and Shiite Muslim political camps led by Saudi Arabia and Iran, respectively.

Conflicts between the camps have escalated in recent years, including in proxy wars in Syria and Yemen. Predominantly Sunni Jordan is a U.S. ally and maintains discrete security ties with Israel.

Jordan previously raised concerns about Iran in talks with Russia, the official said. The Assad government surely received the message, he said, adding that it's unclear how much influence the Syrian president has over his allies.

A successful truce could pave the way for talks about Syria retaking control of border crossings with Jordan that it lost to rebels during the war, the Jordanian official said.

Israel is also worried about the recent movements of Iranian-backed forces.

Israel controls the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau in southwestern Syria that it captured in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel has fought cross-border wars with Hezbollah from Lebanon.

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Shabab beheads 9 civilians in attack on Kenya village

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Al-Shabab extremists from neighboring Somalia beheaded nine civilians in an attack on a village in Kenya's southeast early Saturday, officials said, adding to growing concerns the Islamic militant group has taken up a bloody new strategy. The attack occurred in Jima village in Lamu County, said James Ole Serian, who leads a task force of security agencies combating the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab. Beheadings by al-Shabab have been rare in Kenya even as the group has carried out dozens of deadly attacks over the years. Beheadings are not uncommon in Somalia, where the extremists carry them out on people who are believed to be enemies and to terrorize local populations. This East Africa country has seen an increase in attacks claimed by al-Shabab in recent weeks, posing a security threat ahead of next month's presidential election.

Iraq says forces are 'tens of meters' from retaking Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq (AP)—Iraqi commanders said Saturday their forces are "tens of meters" away from defeating the Islamic State group in Mosul, a day after a major counterattack by the militants. The Joint Operations Command "our units are still continuing to advance... Not much is left before our forces reach the river." Iraqi officials have made similar pronouncements over the past week as security forces have bottled the militants up in a sliver of the Old City along the Tigris River. But the troops' progress has slowed in recent days. The militants hold less than one square kilometer (mile) of territory, but are using civilians as human shields, making it nearly impossible for U.S.-led warplanes to flush them out.

Focus

Kushners face heated trial over suburban Jersey mall project

By GARANCE BURKE and
BERNARD CONDON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Days after a seaside reception for his father-in-law's presidential campaign, Jared Kushner set out to pitch a deal to a small-town mayor: Kushner Cos. would transform an aging shopping mall into a live-work destination, bringing culture and commerce to a scraggy stretch of the Jersey Shore.

The mayor, a retired police officer, viewed it as a brilliant offer his town couldn't refuse. But hundreds of Eatontown residents turned out in opposition, packing borough council meetings last year to protest the Monmouth Mall expansion as a giveaway to Kushner.

Kushner soon won approval to build 700 apartments atop his mall parking lot as part of a \$300 million expansion deal—an agreement that now is the subject of a heated lawsuit set for trial Monday.

Before joining the White House as a senior adviser to President Donald Trump, Kushner was CEO of his family company and was widely credited with its expansion into Manhattan. But he was just as busy building political loyalties and securing municipal changes to benefit the business in his home state of New Jersey.

Plaintiffs in the mall suit are claiming town officials privately negotiated with the Kushners for half a year without telling the community, then rushed a vote on new zoning rules that benefited only Kushner's company after the deal already had been rejected.

"People are mad. They're mad at the mayor, and they're mad at the backroom deals," said plaintiff and longtime resident Sara Breslow.

The town's attorneys say officials allowed ample time for debate before voting. And the attorneys for the Kushner Cos. say the mall was in "steady decay" and that those opposing the expansion want to block the company from building affordable housing for needy residents.

Other real estate deals Kushner has brokered in New Jersey are under attack, too, with residents also claiming local politicians are too accommodating to the powerful real estate family.

In Jersey City, the Kushners had hoped for a 30-year local tax break for two residential towers, but residents took to the streets in February and the family recently withdrew its application. Farther down

the shore, in Perth Amboy, the status also is shaky. The Kushners have been pressing the city to approve a downsized version of a 22-building waterfront community the family promised years ago, but that is uncertain given resentment over stalled construction and a lawsuit from condo investors who feel misled.

In Eatontown, the Kushners are giving every sign that their Monmouth Mall development is secure. Residents say land surveyors started digging into neighbors' front lawns despite the impending trial.

In August 2015, Kushner's parents threw a garden party honoring Trump at the family's block-long oceanside estate in Long Branch, where officials soon will vote on a proposal to give the Kushner Cos. and a real estate partner up to \$25 million in taxpayer-backed financing for a resort development. Days later, he and his family went to nearby Eatontown to push their plan to build 1,200 new apartments and a hotel at the mall.

Kushner had a tough sell. Not only did consultants say the new apartments would add as many as 1,460 people to the town of 13,000, but the housing would be all rentals, not owner-occupied units. Town officials had long worried about striking the right balance between renters and homeowners.

Most daunting, Kushner needed to change municipal zoning rules because no dwellings were allowed at the mall.

"Jared Kushner took the lead, he introduced himself and spoke about his company," Republican Mayor Dennis Connelly said in a description of the initial pitch, according to borough council meeting minutes. "He laid out what is going on at Malls in general and why he believes now is the time to make a huge change to the investment."

Over the next few months, lawyers for the town and Kushner Cos. met privately several times, and the company supplied studies that indicated their proposal would boost the economy and have minimal traffic impact.

"This type of mall reimagining has helped boost the tax base of towns across the country, and will do the same for Eatontown," Kushner Cos. spokesman James Yolles told The Associated Press when asked for comment.

Keeping negotiations private backfired, feeding residents' suspicions that Connelly wanted to push Kushner's project through by limiting



Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner arrive for the G-20 summit in Hamburg, northern Germany, Thursday, July 6, 2017. The leaders of the group of 20 meet July 7 and 8.

debate. After news of the plan finally broke in the local press in February 2016, records show that one council member emailed Connelly to suggest people be allowed to comment in an upcoming meeting, saying residents felt "the project is being rushed."

Connelly shot back, "I will not be bullied into thinking that we need to have several debates."

More than 100 residents packed a public meeting that April, with many arguing that Kushner's scaled-back plan to build 800 apartments would cause gridlock and drain social services in the sleepy borough. A Kushner representative declared the family had phoned to kill the deal and, as residents clapped, walked out of the meeting. Connelly pivoted and recommended that the council vote no.

Judy Rutan, a caterer whose backyard flanks the mall, had been worried that the value

of her home would fall with apartment blocks going up next door, so was relieved to think that the expansion was over.

"Our whole future base is invested in our home, and we are not financially well-off," said Rutan, a Republican. "It's not just my home. I raised my kids here, and this mall project is going to make us lose the whole feel of the town."

Residents thought the development was dead but, behind the scenes, Connelly said he asked Kushner Cos. to tweak it. Soon, the company put a slimmed-down proposal before officials including up to 700 apartments, and no hotel. That was 500 fewer units than its original bid and 100 fewer than its most recent proposal.

In the meantime, Connelly was appointed to a \$74,000 side job at the state Commission of Motor Vehicles, the kind of position typically filled by the party of the governor,

in this case Republican Chris Christie. Connelly had been seeking such a job for more than two years.

In the tense atmosphere of the town, the July timing made some residents suspect the appointment was an effort by Christie—then Trump's campaign adviser—to win Connelly's support for the Kushners' project.

Connelly and Christie's office said such conjectures were completely false. Kushner Cos. spokesman Yolles said the company had nothing to do with the mayor's new job.

By August, the mayor was championing a new proposal allowing up to 700 apartments, and scheduled a council vote.

Monmouth Mall's fate was decided on a sweltering September evening. Although the mall had never been zoned for housing, the planning board had ruled three weeks before that a new ordinance allowing apartments there nonetheless fit Eatontown's master plan. Kushner Cos. agreed to provide at least 88 affordable housing units.

Now the borough council needed to vote.

The original April meeting was held in a large school auditorium with a standing room-only crowd. This time, a smaller council room was chosen. More than 100 people showed up to voice their opinions, with the overflow sent to watch the meeting remotely in a firehouse.

"I'm begging everybody up here to vote yes," Connelly pleaded with his colleagues inside council chambers, according to transcripts. "This wasn't done by Kushner."

"According to you, not according to us!" one resident shouted. "You're not king!"

"I'm not king, but I was elected mayor," Connelly responded. "Anyway, I'll call the vote now."

The measure passed 5-1.

Two months later, two council members who approved the expansion lost their seats to candidates who campaigned against the mall.

One of the victors, Al Baginsky, said Connelly was wrong to keep the Kushner talks private and called the Kushner walk-out at the April meeting "theatrics" to make the 700-apartment offer seem like a concession.

With the town divided, four residents - three Democrats and one Republican - filed suit against Eatontown weeks before the presidential election seeking to void the council vote, claiming that borough officials' decision to meet in a smaller room was "practically designed" to limit debate. The suit accused officials of violating the public meetings act, along with breaking with procedure and land-use law by giving special zoning favors to a single developer, an illegal act called "spot zoning."

"If it were called the 'Monmouth Mall Zone' or the 'Kushner-Can-Do-Whatever-He-Wants-in-His-Private-Zone Zone,' there would be no difficulty in recognizing the spot-zoning for what it is," the plaintiffs' trial brief reads.

Kushner Cos. signed onto the suit in December, taking the town's side.

In May, the company announced a new partnership with New York-based Rouse Properties to add landscaping and a culinary marketplace to the mall, which they said would transform it into a job-creating "state-of-the-art mixed-use destination."

Health & Fitness

Carpal tunnel syndrome may require surgery

Dear Mayo Clinic: I have carpal tunnel syndrome that used to bother me only at night. Wearing a splint helped, but, now, my symptoms are noticeable throughout the day, as well. Does this mean surgery is inevitable, or are there other things I can do to help lessen the tingling and numbness it's causing?

A Carpal tunnel syndrome is caused by pressure on the median nerve that's in the front of your wrist. Treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome usually starts with splinting, self-care measures and, if needed, a corticosteroid injection. If that provides only temporary relief, then surgery may be recommended.

The carpal tunnel is a small passageway on the palm side of your wrist. Nine tendons and the median nerve travel through the carpal tunnel. Those tendons are like ropes that control the movement of your fingers. The median nerve serves as a pathway for the sensations you feel in your palm, thumb, index finger, middle finger and outer border of your ring finger. It also sends the nerve signals that move muscles around the base of your thumb.

Carpal tunnel syndrome happens when the space in the carpal tunnel becomes smaller or the tendons in the tunnel thicken, placing pressure on the median nerve. In its early stages, symptoms may include tingling or numbness in your thumb, index finger, middle finger and outer border of your ring finger.

A wrist splint typically is the first step in carpal tunnel treatment. A splint can be particularly helpful for people whose symptoms bother them at night. Wearing a splint during the night can keep the wrist from bending while you sleep. That can relieve the nerve pressure and eliminate nighttime discomfort.

When symptoms persist during waking hours, wearing a splint during the day can be useful. You also may be able to ease daytime symptoms by taking frequent breaks from repetitive activities. Throughout the day, take time to rotate your wrists, and stretch your palms and fingers. Taking a pain reliever, such as ibuprofen, naproxen or aspirin, may help lessen the inflammation of carpal tunnel syndrome.

If those steps aren't enough, then

a corticosteroid injection into the carpal tunnel may reduce tingling and numbness. Corticosteroids lower inflammation and swelling within the carpal tunnel, which can relieve pressure on the median nerve.

For those with severe symptoms or whose symptoms come back after an injection, surgery may be an appropriate option. The goal of carpal tunnel surgery is to relieve pressure on your median nerve by cutting a ligament, called the transverse carpal ligament, pressing on the nerve.

Traditionally, surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome has been performed as an open surgery in which a surgeon makes a small incision in the palm of the hand over the carpal tunnel and then releases the ligament. Alternatively, this procedure can be performed via endoscopic surgery. With that approach, the surgeon uses a telescope-like device with a small camera attached to it, called an endoscope, to see inside the carpal tunnel. The surgeon cuts the ligament through one or two small incisions in the hand or wrist.

Ultrasound-guided carpal tunnel release is another alternative treatment in which a surgeon or a qualified physician uses ultrasound images to guide an instrument into the carpal tunnel through a small incision in the forearm, and then cut the ligament. As the techniques for ultrasound carpal tunnel release continue to evolve, the procedures may be able to be performed in a doctor's office under local anesthesia.

Effectively treating carpal tunnel syndrome as promptly as possible is important. The longer the median nerve remains compressed, the more damaged it can become. If the nerve is compressed for too long, it may not recover even once the pressure is relieved. Eventually, that could lead to permanent weakness and lack of coordination in your fingers and thumb.

(Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS)



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Carpal tunnel syndrome is caused by pressure on the median nerve that is in the front of your wrist. Treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome usually starts with splinting, self-care measures and, if needed, a corticosteroid injection. If that provides only temporary relief, then surgery may be recommended.

Personal Trainer

How to relieve plantar fasciitis

Gentle stretches are part of the treatment for plantar fasciitis, a painful overuse injury of connective tissues on the sole of the foot.

Wall stretch

Lean with one knee straight and heel down; bend other knee



Stretch sole of foot for 10 seconds, then relax and stand up

20x Repeat 20 times for each sore foot



Table stretch

Lean onto table or counter; spread feet with one in front of the other



Flex knees and squat; press heels downward for 10 seconds, then stand up

20x Repeat 20 times



Source: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation



Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Life & Style

Candy Crush addicts get new outlet as video game comes to TV

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Candy Crush addicts, and you know who you are, put down your mobile device immediately. Then you can watch “Candy Crush,” the TV game show.

Expect breezy, energetic fun

Christopher Nolan didn't know how famous Harry Styles was

from the CBS series debuting 9 p.m. EDT Sunday with host Mario Lopez, said executive producer Matt Kunitz, whose credits include “Wipeout” and “Fear Factor.”

Nearly 200 billion game

rounds were played in the Candy Crush Saga last year, according to its maker, King. To entice people to watch it on TV, “Candy Crush” supersizes the visuals and the action.

Two specially designed



In this May 9, 2017, file photo, Harry Styles performs on NBC's "Today" show at Rockefeller Plaza in New York. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Christopher Nolan and actor Mark Rylance didn't know quite how famous Harry Styles was before “Dunkirk.” The young people in their lives certainly did.

“I don't think I was that aware really of how famous Harry was” before casting the pop star in the upcoming World War II epic, Nolan said Friday. “I mean, my daughter had talked about him. My kids talked about him, but I wasn't really that aware of it. So the truth is, I cast Harry because he fit the part wonderfully and truly earned a seat at the table.”

Styles, 23, who gained fame with One Direction and recent-

ly launched his solo career, plays a British soldier in Nolan's suspense-thriller about the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers from Dunkirk, France, in May and June of 1940.

Rylance, also featured in the film, said he learned of Styles from his 11-year-old niece.

“She was just more excited than anything I've ever done because I was going to be acting with Harry Styles,” said Rylance, who has won an Oscar and three Tonys. “I went up in her estimation. I won the Harry!”

Styles described his first days on set as “overwhelming.”

“I'd say realizing the scale of the production was very

overwhelming. I think whatever you imagine kind of a giant film set to be like, this was very ambitious even by those standards. You know the boats and the planes and the volume of bodies ... it was pretty amazing.”

“Dunkirk” opens in North American theaters July 21. It also features Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy and Tom Hardy, and stars newcomer Fionn Whitehead.

Styles, who recently added 56 dates to his upcoming solo world tour, said his One Direction bandmates were supportive of his acting dreams.

“They are big fans of Chris, too, and I think they're excited to see it,” Styles said.

Acrobat plummets to death in rock music festival in Madrid

MADRID (AP)—Event organizers say an acrobat fell to his death during a rock music festival in Madrid on Friday night.

The organizers of the Mad Cool festival expressed their condolences to the acrobat's family in a statement Saturday.

Kendall and Kylie Jenner sued over Tupac Shakur T-shirts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A commercial photographer has sued Kendall and Kylie Jenner over the use of two of his images of late rapper Tupac Shakur that were used on T-shirts the sisters briefly sold for \$125 apiece.

Michael Miller sued the Jenner sisters in a Los Ange-

les federal court on Friday for copyright infringement over the “vintage” T-shirts that featured their likeness or designs superimposed over photos of famous musicians. Miller's suit states the Jenners never sought permission to use his photos.

The sisters' brand Kendall + Kylie stopped selling the shirts

last month after Ozzy Osbourne's wife and the mother of the late rapper Notorious B.I.G. criticized them.

Emails sent to the Jenners' publicists were not immediately returned Friday.

Miller is seeking at least \$150,000 apiece for the use of his photos.

video walls, each made up of 55 monitors and measuring more than 20-by-25 feet, require contestants to physically scramble as they compete for the weekly \$100,000 prize.

One wall is placed horizontally on the stage floor, the other is perpendicular to it, and players in safety harnesses scoot across and up and down the screens. They make candy matches by, natch, swiping squares a la the mobile game.

The stunt team that handled Lady Gaga's rig during her airborne entrance to this year's Super Bowl halftime show did the same for “Candy Crush,” with the same injury-free success, Kunitz and CBS said. Taping is completed.

When the show was pitched to the network, Kunitz said, they asked CBS executives to imagine “if you were play-

ing on your phone and got sucked through and were in a Candy Crush arena.”

The video walls were key, he said.

Their surfaces needed to withstand running, jumping and sliding and respond only to the swipe of contestants' hands. Producers ended up going with a company, MultiTaction, that had created a 44-monitor wall for the Australia's Queensland University of Technology.

That was the world's biggest, Kunitz said, until “Candy Crush” came along—and he points to a Guinness World Records citation attesting to that. Each monitor has 32 cameras to record the flurry of hand swipes.

Many video games have been translated to the movie screen, from “Super Mario

Brothers” to “Tomb Raider” to “The Angry Birds Movie,” but it's rare, if not unprecedented, for a game to come to television, said Sebastian Knutsson, a King executive who helped develop Candy Crush.

The game's simplicity “actually translates very well” to TV, he said, and the audience's perspective allows them to see opportunities more readily than the contestants who are so close to the oversized boards.

How protective did he feel of his baby during its TV adaptation?

“It's been very important to us that this stay true to the core of how you play the game, and that it wouldn't break what we think of as the core rules of Candy Crush,” Knutsson said from Stockholm.

That doesn't mean the TV show had carte blanche.

Florida divers, snorkelers submerge for reef music festival

BIG PINE KEY, Fla. (AP)—A local radio station's broadcast underwater in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary on Saturday attracted about 400 divers and snorkelers who listened to music and announcements advocating reef preservation.

The Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival at Looe Key Reef, part of the world's third-largest living coral barrier reef, featured four hours of music custom-programmed by station WWUS for subsea listening.

“We have a captive audience down there,” said Bill Becker, the event's co-founder and the station's news director.

“We have divers and snorkelers listening to public service announcements about reef preservation, coral reef etiquette and diver awareness.

“It's things that they can do to lessen their impact on the coral reef,” he said.

The aquatic-focused playlist included the theme from the “The Little Mermaid,” the Beatles' “Octopus's Garden” and the theme from the iconic shark motion picture “Jaws.”

“We just wanted to get their (participants) attention,” laughed Becker.

Other songs included Jimmy Buffett's “Fins,” the theme from the television classic “Flipper” and “Atlantis” by Donovan.

Participants in the water could hear the commercial-free broadcast via Lubbell Laboratory waterproof speakers strategically hung from boats floating above the reef.

Several divers were costumed, including two mermaids and a Sponge Bob cartoon character. Others pretended to play Florida Keys artist August Powers' sculpted musical instruments.

Becker described the underwater listening experience at “ethereal,” saying that the sound was not loud, but very clear and it seemed that music could be “felt through your body and not just through your ears.”



In this photo provided by the Florida Keys News Bureau, a yellowtail snapper swims by participants pretending to play a local artist's musical instrument sculptures at the Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival Saturday, July 8, 2017, in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off Big Pine Key, Fla. AP

Actor LaBeouf arrested in Georgia for public drunkenness

'True Blood' actor Nelsan Ellis dead at 39

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Nelsan Ellis, best known for his memorable portrayal of Lafayette Reynolds on HBO's "True Blood," has died at the age of 39.

Ellis' manager, Emily Germon Saines, confirmed the actor's death in an email Saturday. The Hollywood Reporter, which was first to report Ellis' death, quoted her as saying the actor died from complications of heart failure.

The Illinois-born actor, who studied at Juilliard, played the role of Lafayette, a gay short order cook, on

the HBO drama from 2008 to 2014, and more recently appeared in the CBS detective series "Elementary." He also was a playwright and a stage director.

Ellis appeared as Martin Luther King, Jr. in Lee Daniels' "The Butler," and as singer Bobby Byrd in the James Brown biopic "Get On Up."

He also appeared in "The Help," and his castmate Octavia Spencer mourned his death on Instagram. "My heart breaks for his kids and family," the actress wrote.

On Twitter, some fans

posted one of his more famous scenes as Lafayette, where the character marches out of the kitchen to confront some bigoted diners.

HBO released a statement saying the network was "extremely saddened" by Ellis' death.

"Nelsan was a long-time member of the HBO family whose groundbreaking portrayal of Lafayette will be remembered fondly within the overall legacy of 'True Blood,'" the statement read. "Nelsan will be dearly missed by his fans and all of us at HBO."

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—Actor Shia LaBeouf has been released from a Georgia jail after posting \$7,000 bond on charges of public drunkenness.

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office says the 31-year-old was arrested in a hotel lobby at 4 a.m. Saturday by the Savannah Police Department and released.

He also faces charges of disorderly conduct and obstruction.

Police say LaBeouf asked a bystander for a cigarette and when he was refused, he became disorderly, "using profanities and vulgar language in front of the women and children present." When he was told to leave, police say he refused and became aggressive toward an officer. He ran to a nearby hotel to



AP

In this Saturday, July 8, 2017 photo released by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, actor Shia LaBeouf poses for a booking photo, in Savannah, Ga.

avoid arrest.

LaBeouf is in the Savannah area filming his new

movie, "The Peanut Butter Falcon," which also stars Dakota Johnson.



Stone

Emma Stone says male co-stars have helped her get equal pay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Emma Stone says that male co-stars have taken pay cuts to ensure she received equal pay on films.

Speaking to tennis great Billie Jean King in an interview published Thursday in *Out Magazine*, Stone said the gesture to match has impacted what she's able to ask for in the future.

The Oscar-winner portrays King in the upcoming film "Battle of the Sexes" about the 1973 match against Bobby Riggs.

Stone has spoken about the gender pay gap in Hollywood before, as have big screen stars like Jennifer Lawrence, Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson.

Her experience is not universal, though. Stone's co-star Andrea Riseborough said that she has not had the same experience and has been paid less than male co-stars even when she's asked for a raise.

Jay-Z's new album is now on Apple Music, but not Spotify

NEW YORK (AP)—A week after releasing his new album on his streaming service, Tidal, Jay-Z has made "4:44" available on multiple streaming platforms, including iTunes, Apple Music, Google Play and Amazon Music.

Jay-Z released the album last week exclusively on Tidal, which he co-owns with Beyoncé, Rihanna, Madonna and

other artists.

"4:44" has yet to appear on Spotify. Pandora, which offers free and paid subscriptions, said the album will be available on the platform sometime Friday.

The Recording Industry Association of America announced Wednesday that "4:44" had reached platinum status based off streams and

downloads given to Sprint users by the phone company. (Sprint bought a 33 percent stake in Tidal earlier this year.) RIAA's platinum certification was once the equivalent of selling a million albums but has changed since the company began incorporating streaming from YouTube, Spotify and other digital music services.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Missing teen daughter of actor Donal Logue found safe

NEW YORK (AP)—The teenage daughter of actor Donal Logue has been found safe nearly two weeks after she went missing in New York City. The New York Police Department says 16-year-old Jade Logue was found Saturday. Logue had posted appeals to help find Jade on Facebook and Twitter after she disappeared on June 26. He wrote on Facebook that the "net had been flung far and wide." Jade is transgender and was previously known as Arlo Logue. Police provided no details about how or where she was found. Donal Logue stars as Detective Harvey Bullock on "Gotham." He also had a recurring role as Lt. Declan Murphy on NBC's "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

Patton Oswalt engaged to marry actress Meredith Salenger

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor and comedian Patton Oswalt is engaged to marry actress Meredith Salenger. The couple recently went public with their relationship at the Los Angeles premiere of "Baby Driver." Oswalt's publicist confirmed the news of their engagement Thursday. Oswalt's wife, Michelle McNamara, died in April 2016 from a combination of prescription medications and an undiagnosed heart condition. She was a writer who founded

the website True Crime Diary, which covered breaking stories and cold cases. Oswalt had been public with his grief, writing about it and incorporating it into his standup routine. People magazine was first to report the news of the engagement. Oswalt played Spence on the sitcom "The King of Queens." He'll appear in the upcoming NBC comedy "A.P. Bio." Salenger has appeared in numerous TV shows and movies.

Pitbull, Hudson, Kravitz performing at All-Star events

MIAMI (AP)—Pitbull will perform during ceremonies Monday night before the All-Star Home Run Derby. Bebe Rexha will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" Tuesday night before the All-Star Game at Marlins Park and Jocelyn Alice will sing "O Canada." Jennifer Hudson will sing at a private party in Miami Beach hosted by Stand Up to Cancer and Mastercard on Sunday night, when there also will be a New Era event with Amine and Metro Boomin. Lenny Kravitz will perform Monday night at the Major League Baseball Players Association party in Miami. Rapper Lil Jon was to perform at the All-Star 5K on Saturday night and Don Omar at the All-Star Zumba experience on Sunday, when Flo Rida is to give a show at Marlins Park between the All-Star Futures Game and the celebrity softball game.

Neighbor's frustrations spill over in driveway conversation

DEAR ABBY: I live in a 55-plus community. I am younger than my husband by 10 years, so I was 49 when we moved here. We have lost 49 neighbors during the past five years—yes, seriously. Others are in nursing homes with no quality of life.

While walking my dog yesterday, a neighbor stopped me. She was standing in her driveway crying and nearly hysterical. Her husband has been in a nursing home for three years. He doesn't know what is going on or who she is. She told me that she visits him every day, but she cannot stand it anymore. She said she wants to kill herself, but isn't strong enough to do it.

They are in their 80s and had a wonderful 50-year marriage. He is not on life support, but has just been lying there for all this time. What can she do? What can I do to help her?

LISA IN FLORIDA

DEAR LISA: Your poor neighbor was having an awful day. You already helped by listening to her and allowing her to vent. However, she needs to be able to do a lot more of it, and a way to help her further would be to suggest she talk to a doctor who specializes in the needs of older patients (a geriatrician). There may be a support group in your 55-plus community she could join, and she should be encouraged to do more for herself than she has been.

If she doesn't know of a doctor to consult, ask your physician if he/she knows someone who is good. Doctors usually refer patients to doctors at their own level of competence. She could also inquire in the facility her husband is at and ask about support groups there as well.

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Allen," is 27 and a pretty good writer, mostly fantasy stuff. I don't like that genre myself, but I have enjoyed reading some of his work. He writes not only short stories but also entire books.

I have tried to convince him to submit his work to publishers to no avail. He has a college degree, but doesn't use it. He's content working a minimum-wage job when he could be doing what he loves AND possibly make a living at it. Oh! And he still lives at home and does very little work around the house. Advice, please?

FRUSTRATED FATHER

DEAR FRUSTRATED FATHER: Has it occurred to you that your son may be in a comfortable rut? I assume you have already spoken to him regarding his lack of ambition. While his job may not be what you think he's capable of doing, it may allow him the time to write. He may hesitate to submit his work to publishers because he's afraid rejection would be too painful.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Not knowing your son, I can't guess his reasons for living the life he has chosen. However, if what's really bothering you is the fact that at 27 he's still living at home and not helping enough around the house, that is fixable. Explain what you expect of him if he's going to continue to stay there, and if he doesn't live up to his responsibilities, tell him he will have to leave. It's your home and you have a right to be assertive about what goes on in it.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



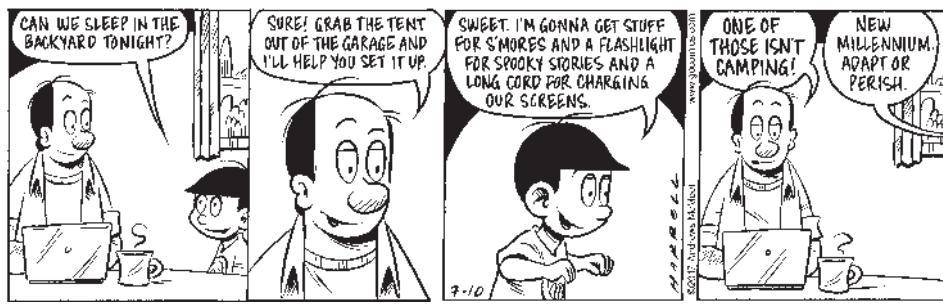
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	41	Brief	DOWN	21	"This —
1 Furry foot	4	Say what?"	1 Samples	2	recording"
4 "Say what?"	43	Deluge	of	23	Playpen
7 Whirlpool	44	refuge	wordplay	25	Earth Day
11 "Oops!"	46	Castle	2 Throat	subj.	subj.
13 Epoch	47	Dangerous	clearer	26	Hot dog
14 River in	50	Amorphous	3 Used a	27	holder
Tuscany	51	sci-fi	loom	28	Remain
15 Actress	52	villain	4 Skirt	29	Zooey's
Campbell	53	Cotillion	edge	30	"New Millennium.
16 Roman	54	celeb	5 "Exodus"	31	ADAPT OR PERISH.
1002	55	Taboo	author	32	?
17 Pitcher	56	Hindu	6 Japanese	33	SAY WHAT?
Nolan	57	royal	verse	34	?
18 Slander	58	Bearded	7 Momen-	35	?
20 "SNL"	59	beast	tous	36	?
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22 Dog doc	61	stand,	9 Genetic	38	?
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theater?	65	Unpaid	tainly	42	?
28 Uniden-	66	Ages and	hope	43	?
tified	67	ages	not!"	44	?
woman	68	Lamb's	19 Roulette	45	?
32 Fancy	69	dam	bet	46	?
neck-	70			47	?
wear	71			48	?
33 Flair	72			49	?
34 Chatter	73			50	?
36 Spanish	74			51	?
greeting	75			52	?
37 Feudal	76			53	?
workers	77			54	?
39 In a	78				
queenly	79				
manner	80				

Solution time: 26 mins.



Friday's answer 7-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Simpson, 37; Adrian Grenier, 41; Sofia Vergara, 45; Arlo Guthrie, 70.

Happy Birthday: Take a different approach to dealing with others this year. Absorb what's going on around you and maintain a reserved and objective point of view. The less likely you are to react abruptly, the better. Keep your household running smoothly and within a set budget. Balance, integrity and using your intuition to evaluate your options will encourage positive results. Your numbers are 5, 16, 19, 23, 27, 31, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful not to get into an argument. You are better off taking a passive role and avoiding any repercussions that will lead to regret. Consider changes and alternatives instead of fixating on something that isn't an option. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Push to get things done that will help to improve your life, professional or personal situation and you will be rewarded for your efforts. High energy coupled with determination and sticking to your plan is encouraged. ★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Share your stories and experiences and look for alternative ways to use your skills and knowledge to get ahead. Make everything you do count and you will find a way to make progress, resolve pending problems and impress onlookers. ★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll get riled up easily. Keep busy and don't let anyone push you into something you

don't want to do. Make choices based on what you can afford as well as what's most enjoyable and calming. Put your own needs first. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Deal with matters that touch your heart. Be open and forgiving as well as thoughtful and loving. The way you broach delicate subjects will make a difference to the outcome. Personal integrity should be a priority. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be tempted to make physical moves based on emotional situations. Before you take a leap of faith, consider all the possibilities. Making an abrupt change at work or to the way you present what you do will have consequences. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your intelligence to find a way to improve your home. Striving to get ahead should not involve impulsive changes that have no guarantees. Physical changes are encouraged. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take time to think before you let your emotions take over, causing you to say something you will regret. Relationships with siblings, friends and peers will be tense if you are too quick to judge. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put greater emphasis on personal relationships. Reaching out to others in order to bring about positive changes will bring good results. Communication and sharing ideas will lead to a happier lifestyle and a brighter future. ★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Choose wisely when it comes to emotional matters. Sticking to the truth and what you can offer will make a difference in the way your relationships unfold. Using anger, pressure or force to get your way is discouraged. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your emotions will guide you. Take good care of your health, wealth and relationships with the ones you love. Communication will set the stage for positive changes at home, work and within important partnerships. Physical improvements are featured. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refrain from sharing personal information with anyone. Focus on building your brand. When you feel you have prepared a unique and flawless presentation, cast a wide net and see what results you can get. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, unpredictable and sensitive. You are passionate and resourceful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11		12	13		14				
15		16		17					
18		19	20	21					
	22	23	24		25	26	27		
28	29	30	31	32					
33		34	35	36					
37		38	39	40					
41		42	43						
	44		45	46	47	48	49		
50	51	52	53	54	55				
56		57		58					
59		60		61					

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	5	4	2	1	8	7	9
2	1	8	5	9	7	6	4	3
9	4	7	6	3	8	2	5	1
1	7	6	3	8	4	9	2	5
8	9	2	1	6	5	4	3	7
4	5	3	2	7	9	1	8	6
5	8	1	9	4	3	7	6	2
3	6	4	7	1	2	5	9	8
7	2	9	8	5	6	3	1	4

Sudoku by Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★

7/10

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle—horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GREGG ALLMAN (1947-2017)

Solution: 12 letters

A	N	G	E	L	S	H	E	L	L	E	Y	B	S	E
Y	E	N	A	U	D	B	C	C	E	A	S	E	R	G
R	R	I	A	L	E	Ⓐ	H	C	I	M	D	A	E	D
O	L	T	T	M	S	Ⓝ	E	R	L	N	R	R	H	I
G	N	A	N	S	H	Ⓓ	R	O	U	B	A	T	R	
E	O	O	I	U	O	E	L	S	J	L				

CLASSIFIED ADS



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Claim Adjuster

The company is currently seeking to add a multi-line claim adjuster to their Saipan office. The adjuster will be responsible for investigating, negotiating, evaluating and settling insurance claims from our policy holders, control damages through proper usage of cost containment tools and provide excellent customer service to our customers.

This position is a full time staff role that offers a competitive salary and benefits.

Required Qualifications:

- 1 to 3 plus years claims handling experience
- College Graduate or equivalent insurance experience
- Carrier experience +
- Valid Driver's License
- Active Adjusters License

Please fax your resume to our Human Resources Department at (671) 648-0608

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PART-TIME CLAIMS ASSISTANT

Responsibilities/Qualifications: Prepare documentation and correspondence, memoranda and reports and gather background materials. Make independent decisions regarding planning, organizing, and scheduling of work. Coordinate schedules/calendaring for Claims Service Department. Open claims filed by customers on Claims System pertaining to specified lines of insurance as assigned by the claims manager. Assures that coverage is in effect and that the company's liability is properly determined; subsequently processes adjustments according to the company's Best Practice procedures and standards or as otherwise instructed. Processes and monitor subrogation & salvage solicitations for insured automobiles declared to be a total loss and retained by the company in a claims settlement. Refers to the Policy Value, Blue Book.

Other duties more specific to the office of the particular need within the Claims Service Department supported, as may reasonably be assigned.

We are looking for:

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- Minimum of 2 years of related experience at an administrative level, preferably in an academic environment

An equivalent combination of education and experience will be considered.

Please fax your application and/or resume at our Human Resources Department Office at (671) 648-0608.



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) to limit hiring to qualified US workers, as restricted by CNMI law, and that equal opportunity be given to all qualified US worker applicants regardless of age, sex or sexual orientation, religion, marital status, political status, veterans status, disability or place of origin.

Opening Date: 07/07/17 Closing Date: 07/21/17*

JVA#17-010:
Annual Salary:
Location:

Trades Technician I
\$18,329.33
Marianas Visitors Authority, Tinian

JVA#17-011:
Annual Salary:
Location:

Marketing Specialist I
\$23,394.03
Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

JVA#17-012:
Annual Salary:
Location:

Accountant II
\$25,791.92
Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

*If not filled, the vacancy announcement will be continued and applications will be reviewed every two weeks thereafter until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day.

Interested persons may contact the Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01 for more detailed information on position description. A completed application must be submitted together with the required documents for consideration until search is closed. A resume may be attached, but the application form must be filled out in full. MVA is an equal opportunity employer.

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Bookkeeper

Duties:

- Update and maintain accounts payable and receivables.
- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments, balance and reconcile billing vouchers, and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.
- Maintain general ledger and subsidiary accounts by verifying, allocating, and posting transactions.
- Balance subsidiary accounts by reconciling entries.
- Balance general ledger by preparing a trial balance; reconciling entries.
- Maintain historical records by filing documents and scanning documents to server.
- Prepare financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying requirements; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing reports; advising management on needed actions.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Employer Preference: Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs. Must have a minimum of three (3) years work experience in accounting. Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System. Must work with minimal or no supervision. Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

No phone calls please. Submit your resume to Achugao Services, LLC; PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950, drop off to Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan, or email to hrachugao@gmail.com



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2017

Opening date: July 5, 2017 Closing date: July 25, 2017

Positions: (1) Tinian Ports Manager (Tinian)
(1) Accountant-I (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office West Tinian International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport is no later than **5:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 25, 2017**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or at the CPA Admin. Office at the West Tinian International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at cpa.personnel@pticom.com or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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Happy 20th!
Saipan Tribune



"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

WHATZIT Solution: Too few to mention

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

FEW MENTION
FEW MENTION

Find today's solution in classified section

Harden signs extension, giving him richest NBA deal ever



LAS VEGAS (AP)—James Harden became a star in Houston, and now he's ready to call the city home.

Harden signed a four-year, “supermax” extension Saturday, a whopper of a deal that guarantees Harden about \$228 million over the next six seasons and makes it the richest contract in league history.

The extension alone tacks another \$170 million or so—depending on how the salary cap escalates—on to a contract that still had two more years and nearly \$60 million remaining. It's a mammoth deal befitting one of the league's brightest stars, which is exactly what the Beard has become in five seasons with the Rockets.

“Since he arrived in Houston, James has exhibited the incredible work ethic, desire to win, and passion to be the best that has made him one of the most unique and talented superstars in the history of the game,” Rockets owner Leslie Alexander said in a statement issued by the team. “Additionally, the commitment he has shown to our organization, the city of Houston, and Rockets fans all over the world makes him a perfect leader in our pursuit of another championship.”

The deal keeps Harden under contract through the 2022-23 season, a lifetime in the modern NBA financial landscape in which so many superstars take short-term deals to maximize their earning potential. While anything can happen, this is about as much security as a player can get.

Harden is coming off of his finest season. Moving to point



AP
NBA player James Harden, of the Houston Rockets, arrives at the NBA Awards at Basketball City at Pier 36 on Monday, June 26, 2017, in New York.

guard for new coach Mike D'Antoni, Harden averaged 29.1 points, an NBA-leading 11.2 assists and 8.1 rebounds and finished second in the MVP race to former Okla-

homa City teammate Russell Westbrook.

“Houston is home for me,” Harden said. “Mr. Alexander has shown he is fully committed to winning and my team-

mates and I are going to keep putting in the work to get better and compete for the title.”

Most importantly for the Rockets in the immediate future is that the extension will

not affect Houston's aggressive pursuit of free agents this summer as the Rockets try to make a run at the Golden State Warriors. The Rockets finished third in the Western Conference regular season last year but know they have plenty of ground to make up if they hope to truly challenge the defending champions.

ESPN first reported the contract details.

Harden's do-it-all season helped the Rockets bounce back from a massively disappointing 2015-16 season that collapsed under the weight of chemistry issues with the All-Star guard and big man Dwight Howard. With Howard gone, the Rockets put Harden at the center of everything they do on offense, and it paid off in a major way.

Houston went 55-27 in the regular season and beat Westbrook and the Thunder in the first round of the Western Conference semifinals.

Harden seemed to run out of gas a bit in their semifinals loss to the San Antonio Spurs, and GM Daryl Morey has worked

quickly to get him some help this summer.

Morey traded for All-Star point guard Chris Paul, a bold move that gives the Rockets as talented a backcourt as any team in the league. Morey also signed rugged forward P.J. Tucker to boost the defense and brought Nene back as well.

And he's not done yet.

This mechanics for this extension are new to the NBA in the latest version of the collective bargaining agreement. Harden was named first team All-NBA, making him eligible for a lucrative, four-year extension that also sends a message to the rest of the league that the Rockets are committed to stability as they try to challenge the Warriors in the West.

Morey has never been bashful about hunting big game and Alexander has shown time and again that he will give his general manager the financial resources to go for it.

With Harden locked up for the next six years, it's time to go hunting again.

Clippers acquire Gallinari in deal involving Nuggets, Hawks

DENVER (AP)—The Los Angeles Clippers acquired sharp-shooting forward Danilo Gallinari from Denver as part of a three-team trade that also involved Atlanta on Thursday.

In the swap, Los Angeles sent Jamal Crawford, Diamond Stone, cash considerations and a protected 2018 first-round pick to the Hawks. The Nuggets receive a 2019 second-round pick from Atlanta.

Gallinari joins a Clippers team that recently traded Chris Paul to Houston, but agreed to a five-year deal with Blake Griffin. Los Angeles also has DeAndre Jordan in the frontcourt.

The 28-year-old Gallinari was selected by New York with the sixth overall pick in 2008. He wound up in Denver as part of the blockbuster deal in February 2011 that sent Carmelo Anthony to the Knicks.

A fan favorite, Gallinari averaged 16.2 points and made 535 3-pointers for the Nuggets. He missed the 2013-14 season because of a torn left ACL.

“Danilo has been a special player for the Nuggets organization as well as a prominent figure in the Denver community for the last six years,” said Tim Connelly, the president of basketball operations for Denver. “He was a consummate professional throughout his time

with us and we want to wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter.”

The Nuggets made a splashy move in free agency by adding four-time All-Star Paul Millsap on a three-year deal worth \$90 million. The 32-year-old Millsap gives the team a proven, defensive-minded veteran to work alongside up-and-coming big man Nikola Jokic.

Denver hasn't made the postseason since 2012-13. Crawford played for the Hawks from 2009-11. He's captured the NBA's Sixth Man of the Year Award three times.

The 20-year-old Stone was acquired by the Clippers during a 2016 draft-night trade with New Orleans. He played in seven games for Los Angeles last season.

“As we continue to focus on maintaining flexibility and adding assets, this deal accomplished multiple goals and made a lot of sense for us,” Hawks general manager Travis Schlenk said. “First-round picks have great value and Diamond is an intriguing, young player to add to our group.”

Also Thursday, the Clippers acquired the draft rights to Oklahoma State guard Jawun Evans from the Philadelphia 76ers in exchange for cash considerations. Selected 39th overall, Evans led the Big 12 in scoring at 19.2 points per game last season.

AP source: James Johnson staying with Miami Heat

MIAMI (AP)—James Johnson is back with the Miami Heat, and has cashed in after a breakout season.

Johnson agreed to terms Thursday night on a four-year deal that could be worth more than \$60 million, a person with knowledge of the talks told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it hasn't been formally announced. And that move came hours after Miami struck another four-year deal with free-agent Kelly Olynyk.

Johnson had said for months that he wanted to remain in Miami—and based on that salary, the Heat clearly had no desire to let him go elsewhere.

Johnson revived his career in Miami last season, averaging 12.8 points—his best, by far, in his eight NBA years. He shed 40 pounds and finished sixth in the league's Most

Improved Player voting. He made \$4 million last season, which was the best salary of his career.

That'll be dwarfed by the new deal.

Keeping Johnson and Dion Waiters, who agreed to a four-year deal Wednesday, were big priorities for Miami this summer. And they became even bigger priorities after the Heat missed out on landing Gordon Hayward, the All-Star forward who will sign with Boston.

“The band is back,” Heat point guard Goran Dragic said. Not yet, it isn't. At least, not completely.

Miami is still exploring ways to clear some salary-cap space in an effort to retain guard Wayne Ellington. The Heat have to make a decision on his \$6.3 million option for next season by the close of business Friday, or risk him

A 7-foot center with 3-point range, Olynyk was mostly a reserve in Boston. He averaged 9.5 points in 278 regular-season games and shot a career-best 51 percent last season.

Olynyk had a run-in with Heat center Hassan Whiteside

in 2015. Whiteside elbowed Olynyk in the head and was suspended for a game, though tracked down Olynyk's number and offered an apology.

And now they'll be teammates.

“He's a good guy,” Olynyk said after the apology.

The Heat value the corner 3-pointer, as many teams have in this NBA, and Olynyk could be a huge addition on that front. According to the NBA's stat-tracking page, Olynyk was 18 for 32 this past season on corner 3-pointers—and was also a strong finisher at the rim, connecting on 73 percent of his tries in the restricted area.

Olynyk had a pair of 26-point games for the Celtics last season, including one in Game 7 of Boston's second-round playoff win over Washington.

Frazier's 3-run homer gives Yankees win over Brewers

 NEW YORK (AP)—Clint Frazier hit a three-run homer off Corey Knebel with one out in the ninth, lifting the New York Yankees over the Milwaukee Brewers 5-3 on Saturday.

Frazier turned on a 1-0 pitch from Knebel (0-2) for his second career homer and first game-ending shot. He threw his helmet as he approached his teammates at home plate, unveiling his mop of red hair, which was then doused in yellow Gatorade.

Frazier had three hits and a career-high four RBIs in his sixth game. Dellin Betances struck out two in a perfect eighth for New York, and Aroldis Chapman (2-0) struck out the side in the ninth.

Milwaukee left-hander Brent Suter allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings. The NL Central-leading Brewers had won five in a row.

Dodgers 5, Royals 4

In Los Angeles, All-Star rookie Cody Bellinger drew a bases-loaded walk to force in the winning run in the 10th inning and the NL West-leading Dodgers rallied to beat Kansas City for their fifth straight victory.

The Dodgers (60-29) reached the 60-win mark before the All-Star break for the first time since 1974. They are just the third team in franchise history to do so since 1933, joining the 1973 and '74 squads that had 63 wins each.

Royals reliever Scott Alexander (1-3) loaded the bases on consecutive walks to Chase Utley, Corey Seager and Justin Turner leading off the inning. He was replaced by Kelvin Herrera. With the infield drawn in, fans chanted "Cody! Cody!" as Bellinger worked a full count before walking to force in Utley.

Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in the second for the Dodgers, who blew a 3-0 lead before tying the game 4-all on Bellinger's 25th homer in the eighth. Ross Stripling (1-3) got the win with one strikeout on 14 pitches in the 10th.

Salvador Perez hit a go-ahead homer in the top of the eighth off Pedro Baez, giving Kansas City a 4-3 lead.

Rays 1, Red Sox 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Alex Cobb pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning and the Rays beat the Red Sox with some help from a replay reversal.

Cobb (7-6) retired 11 straight over one stretch. Alex Colome got the final four outs for his 24th save, finishing Tampa Bay's three-hitter.

The Red Sox put runners on second and third with one out in the ninth. Hanley Ramirez then struck out swinging. After rookie Andrew Benintendi



New York Yankees' Clint Frazier, center, is congratulated by teammates, including Aaron Judge, right, after hitting a three-run walkoff home run during the ninth inning of an interleague baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Saturday, July 8, 2017, at Yankee Stadium in New York. AP

getting tossed. Manager Bud Black also was ejected for arguing the call with Holbrook.

Marlins 5, Giants 4

In San Francisco, Justin Bour hit his 20th home run, Marcell Ozuna drove in two runs and the Miami Marlins held on to beat the San Francisco Giants.

Christian Yelich and J.T. Realmuto added two hits apiece and All-Star Giancarlo Stanton doubled and scored while helping Chris O'Grady to a victory in his major league debut for the Marlins.

San Francisco scored a run in the ninth off closer A.J. Ramos and had runners at the corners with two outs before Hunter Pence struck out looking to end the game.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Joey Votto, Scooter Gennett and Tucker Barnhart homered, helping rookie Luis Castillo to his first major league win in the Cincinnati Reds' victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Castillo (1-1) allowed three hits over 6 2-3 innings, striking out eight with a walk. It was his longest outing of the season.

The Diamondbacks managed only the three hits and lost their fourth game in the past five.

The Reds took control quickly, their first three batters of the game against Diamondbacks starter Taijuan Walker (6-4) coming around to score. Billy Hamilton started the game with a walk, stole second base and scored on Zack Cozart's triple. Votto's National League-leading 26th home run of the year gave the Reds a 3-0 lead with an out yet to be recorded.

Athletics 4, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Ryon Healy bounced a ground-rule RBI double to right-center with two outs in the ninth inning to give the Oakland Athletics a victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Rajai Davis opened the ninth with a slow-rolling infield single to third off Edwin Diaz (2-4), who relieved to open the inning. Davis stole second as Matt Joyce struck out. Yonder Alonso was walked intentionally with two outs and Healy then ripped an 0-2 pitch into the gap.

was walked intentionally, Chris Young popped out to end the game.

Boston's Rick Porcello (4-11) allowed six hits, struck out seven and walked none in his first complete game of the season.

Jesus Sucre drove in the game's only run with a sacrifice fly in the second. The inning was kept alive by a replay reversal of a double-play call.

Braves 13, Nationals 0

In Washington, Julio Teheran pitched seven strong innings and drove in a career-high three runs, leading Atlanta to the easy victory.

Nick Markakis and Johan Camargo each had three hits for the Braves, who had dropped three of four.

Teheran (7-6) gave up four hits while walking two and striking out five to improve to 6-0 in nine road starts this season. He singled twice against Stephen Strasburg to improve to 4 for 7 in his career against him.

Strasburg (9-3) was hit on his hip by a line drive from Markakis in the third and left after the inning. He gave up seven hits and six runs — three earned — in his shortest outing of season.

Blue Jays 7, Astros 2

In Toronto, Josh Donaldson and Troy Tulowitzki homered, helping the Blue Jays to the win.

Donaldson hit a three-run shot in the fifth inning for his first homer since June 11 at Seattle and No. 150 for his career. Tulowitzki connected for the second straight game as Toronto bounced back from Friday night's 12-2 loss.

Marcus Stroman (9-5) pitched seven effective innings as the Blue Jays beat the Astros for the 10th time in their last 13 meetings. The right-hander, who was removed from his previous start

because of a blister on his pitching hand, allowed one run and six hits.

Marwin Gonzalez homered in the ninth for Houston, which hit into four double plays over the first five innings. Mike Fiers (5-4) yielded three runs and five hits in six innings.

Cardinals 4, Mets 1

In St. Louis, Cardinals rookie Paul DeJong homered as part of a four-hit game, and Adam Wainwright won his third consecutive start.

Wainwright (10-5) struck out seven in 6 2/3 innings. He allowed one run and five hits.

Seung Hwan Oh pitched the ninth for his 18th save in 21 chances.

Jay Bruce hit his 23rd homer for New York, and T.J. Rivera had three hits. Zack Wheeler (3-6) pitched six innings of two-run ball in his second start since returning from the disabled list after being sidelined by biceps tendinitis.

Orioles 5, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Jonathan Schoop and Mark Trumbo homered, Wade Miley produced his best start in more than five weeks and Baltimore stopped a five-game losing streak.

Manny Machado added an RBI double to help the Orioles beat the Twins for the first time in six meetings this season. This was just their third win in 11 games.

After Miley (4-7) allowed Miguel Sano's 21st home run, the most by a Twins player before the break since Justin Morneau with 21 in 2009, Schoop trumped his American League All-Star teammate with a towering two-run shot in the fourth inning off Adalberto Mejia (4-4). The ball reached the third deck above left field, estimated by Major League Baseball's Statcast

system at 462 feet.

Miley was charged with eight hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Padres 2, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Austin Hedges drove in the winning run for San Diego for the second straight game, and Jhoulys Chacin pitched 6 1/3 strong innings.

Carlos Asuaje added an RBI triple for the Padres, who have won five of six.

Maikel Franco homered and Tommy Joseph had two hits for Philadelphia, which has lost five straight and seven of nine.

Chacin (8-7) allowed one run and three hits. Brandon Maurer pitched a scoreless ninth for his 19th save.

Pirates 4, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Gregory Polanco hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and Ivan Nova pitched three-hit ball into the seventh, leading the Pittsburgh Pirates past the Chicago Cubs.

Josh Bell had three hits and two runs scored, while Francisco Cervelli and Jordy Mercer each drove in a run for the Pirates.

Ian Happ and Kyle Schwarber had back-to-back home runs for Chicago, which has not won consecutive games since a three-game streak June 18-20.

Nova (9-6) struck out six and walked one in 6 2/3 innings. Besides the homers, the only other hit he allowed was a second-inning single to Schwarber. Felipe Rivero, who reached 102 on the radar gun, got the final four outs for his sixth save.

Indians 4, Tigers 0

In Cleveland, Mike Clevinger held Detroit to three hits in six innings and outpitched Justin Verlander, All-Star Michael Brantley broke a scoreless tie with an RBI double, and the Cleveland Indians defeated the Tigers.

Clevinger (5-3) allowed only one runner to reach sec-

ond base and won his third straight decision.

Verlander (5-6) gave up one run in 6 2/3 innings and lost to Cleveland for the second time this week. The right-hander struck out six after the Indians snapped his streak of 331 consecutive games with at least one strikeout last Sunday.

Rangers 5, Angels 2

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre and Drew Robinson hit two-run homers and the Texas Rangers beat the Los Angeles Angels.

It was the Rangers' fifth straight game with multiple homers as they moved within a game of .500. The Angels dropped to three games below .500 for the first time since May 13.

Beltre homered against Angels starter Jesse Chavez in the third inning to give Texas a 3-1 lead. It was his 452nd career home run, moving him into a tie with Carl Yastrzemski for 38th all-time.

White Sox 5, Rockies 4

In Denver, Tim Anderson homered off Colorado closer Greg Holland leading off the ninth inning, lifting the Chicago White Sox past the Rockies.

Anderson, who also hit a home run in Friday night's loss to Colorado, drove a 1-2 pitch from Holland (1-1) into the stand of evergreens beyond the center-field wall. The win snapped a three-game losing streak by the White Sox and denied the Rockies' bid for successive wins for the first time in three weeks.

David Robertson pitched a perfect ninth for his 13th save, striking out the last two batters, including Charlie Blackmon, All-Star Michael Brantley broke a scoreless tie with an RBI double, and the Cleveland Indians defeated the Tigers.

Clevinger (5-3) allowed only one runner to reach sec-

Rajai Davis opened the ninth with a slow-rolling infield single to third off Edwin Diaz (2-4), who relieved to open the inning. Davis stole second as Matt Joyce struck out. Yonder Alonso was walked intentionally with two outs and Healy then ripped an 0-2 pitch into the gap.

Djokovic snaps at Wimbledon chair umpire en route to Week 2

LONDON (AP)—All it took was a couple of questionable calls for Novak Djokovic to snap at the chair umpire in the second game of his third-round match at Wimbledon.

"That's two points in a row at the beginning of the match," Djokovic said, before telling official Jake Garner: "Focus, please!"

That would have been good advice for Djokovic himself. Maybe he was a bit on edge because this was the stage at which, as a two-time defending champion, he lost at the All England Club a year ago. On Saturday, Djokovic briefly fell behind by an early break before zipping past Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (2) to earn his 10th berth in the tournament's second week.

Right after his, er, conversation with Garner, Djokovic lost a service game to trail 2-1. He later fell behind 4-2 in the opening set. But from there, Djokovic used a nine-game

run to seize control and wasn't broken again.

"As soon as you give a guy like Novak the tools to step on the gas, he will step on the gas," said Gulbis, who has been a top-10 player and a French Open semifinalist but missed chunks of time because of injuries, dropping his ranking outside the top 500. "And he just goes, and he doesn't look back."

Three of Djokovic's 12 major championships have come at Wimbledon, and after a real dip in results over the past 12 months, he has not dropped a set so far this fortnight.

"That only can boost my confidence level," the No. 2-seeded Djokovic said, "for whatever is coming up next."

After the grass-court Grand Slam tournament's traditional middle Sunday off, he will face 51st-ranked Adrian Man-

naro of France for a place in the quarterfinals.

All 16 fourth-round singles matches are scheduled for Monday—Wimbledon is the only major that does it that way—including these in the bottom half of the men's draw: No. 3 Roger Federer vs. No. 13 Grigor Dimitrov, a guy nicknamed "Baby Fed" because of his similarities to the

seven-time Wimbledon champion; 2016 runner-up Milos Raonic vs. No. 10 Alexander Zverev; and 2010 runner-up Tomas Berdych vs. No. 8 Dominic Thiem.

Federer, like Djokovic, has won every set he's played this week, including Saturday's 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-4 win against No. 27 Mischa Zverev, Alexander's older, left-handed, serve-and-volleying brother.

"It's important to get through the first week with a good feeling," said Federer, who compiled hard-to-believe

official statistics of 61 winners to a mere seven unforced errors, "and I think I got that."

The result made Federer the first man to get to 15-0 in third-round matches at Wimbledon.

Other than a nifty back-to-the-net 'tweener from Federer, it also was a perfect example of what a relatively straightforward, little-drama day it was.

The matchups on the top half of the men's draw are defending champion Andy Murray vs. Benoit Paire, two-

time Wimbledon winner Rafael Nadal vs. No. 16 Gilles Muller, No. 7 Marin Cilic vs. No. 18 Roberto Bautista Agut, and No. 24 Sam Querrey vs. Kevin Anderson.

Women's fourth-rounders: five-time champion Venus Williams vs. No. 27 Ana Konjuh, No. 1 Angelique Kerber vs. No. 14 Garbine Muguruza, No. 2 Simona Halep vs. two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko vs. No. 4 Elina Svitolina, No. 6 Johanna Konta vs. No. 21 Caroline Garcia, No. 7 Svetlana Kuznetsova vs. 2012 runner-up Agnieszka Radwanska, No. 5 Caroline Wozniacki vs. No. 24 CoCo Vandeweghe, and Magdalena Rybarikova vs. Petra Martic.

After completing his career Grand Slam by winning last year's French Open for a fourth consecutive major title, Djokovic went through some struggles, including his upset loss to Querrey at Wimbledon.



WBO says it will re-score Pacquiao fight, result stands



BRISBANE, Australia

(AP)—The World Boxing Organization will re-score the Manny Pacquiao-Jeff Horn welterweight title fight because of the contentious unanimous decision awarded to the Australian challenger, but there is no plan to change the result.

The WBO was responding to a Philippines government department's request to review the fight after Pacquiao said the decision against him Sunday was unfair.

The Philippines Games and Amusements Board (GAB) said it based the request on protecting boxing's integrity, citing possible miscalls by the referee and judges. But the WBO reiterated its only hope of revoking the fight judges' decision rests on proving fraud in match officiating.

"I would be very grateful if the GAB can provide any evidence indicating fraud or violation of law," WBO President Francisco Valcarcel said in a letter to the GAB dated

Thursday.

"The purpose of this review is to be able to give the fans certainty of who was the winner of the bout, even though we do not have the power to reverse the decision of the judges."

The fight at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium was scored 117-111 by Waleksa Roldan and 115-113 each by Chris Flores and Ramon Cerdan, with Roldan's score coming in for most criticism.

In Manila, Philippines, GAB chairman Abraham Kahil Mitra welcomed the WBO's decision to carry out a review, saying that even if that won't change the outcome of the contentious bout, it will send a strong signal that any sign of leniency, abuse of authority or wrongdoing would not be tolerated.

"We're happy with that," Mitra told The Associated Press. "Our feeling is, if you're quiet, you'll get abused but if you complain, they'll be careful ... Manny is a senator, a champion, but was like wrestled there, abused by them. If

it can be done to him, it can be done to any other Filipino boxer."

Valcarcel said five anonymous judges will review the bout, assigning their own scores to rounds.

"Then, we will tabulate the results to ascertain clearly which rounds each fighter won using an average scale based on 60, 80 and 100 percent," Valcarcel said. "This means that three of the five officials have to agree to determine which fighter won the round."

Valcarcel supported the judges, who have each scored hundreds of fights.

"The officials who participated in this fight are all professional, distinguished, honest and honorable human beings," he said.

The 38-year-old Pacquiao and 29-year-old Horn have a rematch clause in their contract.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
Boston	50	38	.568	—
New York	45	40	.529	3½
Tampa Bay	46	43	.517	4½
Toronto	41	46	.471	8½
Baltimore	41	46	.471	8½

Central Division				
Cleveland	47	39	.547	—
Minnesota	45	42	.517	2½
Kansas City	44	42	.512	3
Chicago	38	48	.442	9
Detroit	38	48	.442	9

West Division				
Houston	59	29	.670	—
Texas	43	44	.494	15½
Los Angeles	44	47	.484	16½
Seattle	42	47	.472	17½
Oakland	39	49	.443	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Washington	53	36	.596	—
Atlanta	42	46	.477	10½
Miami	40	46	.465	11½
New York	39	46	.459	12
Philadelphia	28	58	.326	23½

Central Division				
Milwaukee	49	41	.544	—
Chicago	43	44	.494	4½
St. Louis	42	45	.483	5½
Pittsburgh	41	47	.466	7
Cincinnati	38	49	.437	9½

West Division				
Los Angeles	60	29	.674	—
Arizona	53	35	.602	6½
Colorado	51	39	.567	9½
San Diego	38	49	.437	21
San Francisco	34	55	.382	26

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KENTO

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member won the men's open division race, beating Kailua's Jonathan Rieter (33:59.9) and Honolulu's Luis Saulny (34:29.8).

Kento's fellow SSC swimmer, Jinnosuke Suzuki, on the other hand, ruled the men's 11 to 12 age group race after submitting 35:34.1. The 11-year-old Jinnosuke was the lone swimmer in his division to finish the swim under 40 minutes, as runner-up Knut Robinson came in at the 43:21 mark. Kento's brother, Taiyo, rounded out the Top 3 after clocking in at 45:06.8, while Kailua's Ryan Stader was at distant fourth with his 53:58.6. Jinnosuke was sixth overall in the rankings, while Taiyo was at No. 103.

In the men's 13 to 14 age group, Jinnosuke's sibling, Lennosuke, placed second behind Kailua's Kai West. The

older Suzuki posted 37:23.4, the 22nd best in the entire field and just less than a minute behind West (36:56.5). Jaxon Miller and Caleb Merillat also competed in the same division and timed in at 53:54.6 and 54:14.3, respectively.

In the 15 to 19 age group, Christian Villacrusis made it to the podium as his 37:11.3 gave him the third place finish in the division. David Boyer came in next with his age group fourth best 37:26.6. Sean Duval-Arnould won the group with his 35:23.9, while Taiyo Ando took the runner-up spot after recording 36:57.

Meanwhile, the Thompsons—Jinju and Jinie and their father Colin—also completed the third leg of the series. Jinju was the best finisher in the family with her 46:40.7 (fifth in the 13 to 14 division), while Jinie also beat their father after checking in at 53:52.5 (fourth in the 11 to 12 age group). Colin logged 57:52.5.

The North Shore Swim Series is a highly anticipated ocean swim in Oahu every summer and offers five races in different locations for both competitive and recreational swimmers. The first leg was held last June 10 and was dubbed as the Aloha Salads Summer Sprint with its one-mile course from Sunset Beach to Ehukai Beach Park. The second took place last June 24 and featured a 1.2-mile course, with the starting line at Cholo's and the same finish line at Waimea Bay. The fourth will be held on July 22 and features a 1.9-mile course starting at Laniakea beach swimming via Haleiwa town en route to Pua'ena Point surf break. For the last leg—the Jamba Juice North Shore Challenge scheduled for Aug. 5, swimmers will tackle the 2.3-mile course that starts at Ehukai Beach Park and ends at the coast west of Waimea Bay.

favorite Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore, while defending champion Iraq is in Group D, joining host Nepal, Palestine, and India.

Meanwhile, the CNMI has listed 22 players for its training camp in Guam. Joining Rojas and Mendez on the pool are Floyd Muna, John Martin Palad, Jason Quimzon, Ichiro and Taka Borja, Eunsyu Hahn, Ian Maniago, Terrance Montenegro, Jhoey Noble, Mark Salamat, Razeff Altamirano, Kirt Andon, Aloyzeus Angeles, John Guiller Canape, Edward Cho, Sebastian Manabat, Joseph Rasa, Joshua Waldo, Mark Esalan, and Reginald Pascual.

SONICS

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this time knocked in the left baseline jumper, giving the Sonics XVI more cushion.

Saralu tried to get the two points back on the other end, but overshot the mark, while the Sonics XVI collared the rebound and went for a fastbreak play. However, Ejercito fumbled and did not finish, as he was hammered by Ol'Aces Elite defenders. A held ball was called and possession arrow was pointed to the Ol'Aces Elite

SSC at 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Saipan Swim Club swimmers and coach Jacoby Winkfield, fourth from back row, pose for a photo with their trophies after competing in the 69th Annual Keo Nakama Invitational in Hawaii from June 30 to July 2.



Kento Akimaru does the butterfly stroke of the 200m individual medley event.



Jinie Thompson, second right, gets ready for the 100m backstroke swim



Jinju Thompson, left, steps on the starting block for the 50m freestyle swim.



Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield gives instructions to Jinju Thompson.



Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield and Jinnosuke Suzuki smile for the photo after the latter topped the boys 11 to 12 age group contest.



David Boyer, left, and Christian Villacrusis, right, wait for the start of the 100m freestyle event.



Saipan Swim Club swimmers and coach Jacoby Winkfield, third row right, pose for a photo during a break in the meet.



Harden signs extension, giving him richest NBA deal ever

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Frazier's 3-run homer gives Yankees win over Brewers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Teen Ayuyus show composure vs Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U15 Boys National Team forced Guam to a 2-2 draw in their first friendly game last Saturday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

Kento, Jinnosuke show way in Hawaii ocean swim

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two Saipan Swim Club earned top honors in the third leg of the North Shore Swim Series held yesterday in Hawaii.

Kento Akimaru was the top overall finisher among the 381 individuals who completed the 1.8-mile swim from Jaco's Chun to Waimea Bay in Oahu after timing in at 33:17.6. The 16-year-old SSC

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club's Jinnosuke Suzuki heads to the finish line of the third leg of the North Shore Swim Series held yesterday in Hawaii.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI Boys U15 National team players and officials pose for a photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport before heading to Guam last Friday.

The Teen Ayuyus managed to tie the match despite falling behind in the first half. Joshua Mendez broke the visiting team's silence with his goal in the 62nd minute, while John Michael Rojas made the equalizer just three minutes before the 90-minute tiff wrapped up.

"The boys showed great fighting spirits and they did not panic and

give up the game after we conceded two goals in the first half," said head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita, who traveled to Guam with the youth team, assistant coaches Jonathan Takano and Jershwin Angeles, and manager Rodwealth Espana



last Friday afternoon.

"After the first two goals, the boys picked up the ball immediately and tried to restart the game quickly. These are good signs. But Guam players are technically better in this game, they controlled the ball under pressure and built up from behind which we

could not. Our boys have to learn that they need to play a different standard in today's (last Saturday) international match," Mita added.

The game against the Guam U15 Boys National Team was part of the Teen Ayuyu's five-day training camp in Guam. Yesterday, the visiting squad was scheduled to duel the

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Sonics XVI ousts Ol'Aces Elite



The Sonics XVI withstood the Ol'Aces Elite's late rally to pull off a 56-53 victory in their playoff game in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Keanu Diaz drilled a short jumper with 30.4 seconds left in the match to give the Sonics XVI more breathing room after the Ol'Aces moved within a point, 53-54, and then his team challenged the latter's two 3-point attempts to take the close win. With the victory, the Sonics XVI knocked out the Ol'Aces Elite and marched into the semifinals, joining pennant champion Ol'Aces and NMI/DYS Rollers.

The Ol'Aces Elite made the final push to avoid elimination in the last 1:34 of the match where the Sonics XVI was ahead, 54-48. A triple from Rikko Saralu cut the deficit to 3, 51-54, with 1:16 left in the match, while E.J. Abejo followed it up with a layup off another botched Sonics XVI's offensive set, leaving the latter clinging to a 54-53 lead, down to the last 36.2 ticks.



The Ol'Aces Elite had a chance to grab the upper hand after Jehp Ejercito missed a pair of charities. In the ensuing play, however Saralu after winning the battle for the long rebound lost the ball to the sideline, returning possession to the Sonics XVI.

The Sonics XVI sued for time to ease the tension in the game and when the match resumed, Sean Rafols caught the Ol'Aces Elite's defense napping by issuing a quick pass to a cutting Diaz. However, Diaz missed the point-blank shot and players from the opposing teams fought for the rebound. Someone tapped the ball out and it landed at the hands of Diaz, who went back quickly on the court after miffing his attempt and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The 670 Sonics XVI's Keanu Diaz drives baseline and faces two Ol'Aces Elite defenders during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.